

THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLI.]

HONGKONG: THURSDAY, 25TH APRIL, 1895.

No. 17.

CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	297
Leading Articles:—	
The Commercial Terms of the Chino-Japanese Treaty	298
The Opening of the West River	298
The New British Dollar and the Chopping System	299
The Government and the Sanitary Board	299
State of Trade in the Colony	300
The Canton Steamers' Agreement	301
Hongkong Legislative Council	301
The Medical Officer of Health Ordinance	302
The Sanitary Board and the Plague	302
The Plague	303
The Sanitary Board and the Chamber of Commerce	303
Report of the Superintendent of Fire Brigade for 1894	304
Lieutenant-General Barker's Farewell to the Garrison	305
Performance of "The Magistrate" by the A.D.C.	305
Trial Trip of the Spanish Gunboat <i>Quiros</i>	306
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce	306
The Grounding of the <i>Polyphemus</i>	309
Lecture on Argon	310
Hongkong Sky Race Meeting	310
Supreme Court:—	
<i>Belilios v. G. S. Coxon</i>	311
The Attempted Murder and Mutiny	312
<i>In re A. E. Skeels</i>	312
<i>In re Smith Alliston</i>	313
The Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, v. E. L. Lepistier	313
The Terms of Peace between China and Japan	313
The North China Insurance Co., Limited	314
The Jelebu Mining and Trading Company, Limited	315
Dismissal of the Viceroy of Canton	315
The Football Club Dinner	315
Hongkong Golf Club	315
Hongkong Rifle Association	316
Correspondence:—	
The Bank of China and Japan, Limited	316
The Plague at Macao	317
Hongkong News	317
Commercial	318
Shipping	320

MARRIAGES.

On the 23rd instant, at Bonchurch, Isle of Wight, Captain F. LINDSAY LLOYD, R.E., to BEATRICE MARGARET RIDER, youngest daughter of ALFRED HANCOCK, of Hongkong. [915]
On the 19th March, at Evansville, Indiana, U.S.A., Mr. CHARLES DENBY, Junior, to Miss MARTHA DALZELL ORR.

DEATHS.

At sea, at midnight, on the 8th instant, after leaving Colombo, ALICE, the beloved wife of HENRY HUMPHREYS. [882]
On the 21st instant, at Mount Austin Hotel, EDWARD HENRY, eldest son of H. H. Joseph, Secretary to the P. & O. S. N. Co.; aged 3 years and 8 months. [905]
At Tientsin, on the 7th April, Captain W. T. WAT, of Taku. Aged 59 years.
On the 14th instant, at Balado, Singapore, ELLEN, the beloved wife of William Bibby. Aged 50.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 15th March arrived, per M. M. steamer *Natal*, on the 17th April (33 days); the English mail of the 22nd March arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Kaiser-i-Hind*, on the 19th April (28 days); the American mail of the 26th March arrived, per P. M. steamer *China*, on the 22nd April (27 days); and the Canadian mail of the 1st April arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 22nd April (21 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Major-General Black, who succeeds Lieut.-General Barker in command of the troops at Hongkong, arrived on the evening of the 19th instant, and took over command on the following day.

The declaration forbidding navigation of the Canton river by night is now withdrawn.

Plague being epidemic in Macao and Hainan the immigration of Chinese from those places into Hongkong has been prohibited by a proclamation dated the 23rd inst. made under the recently passed Chinese Immigration Ordinance.

The loss of the Swedish steamer *Nora*, already briefly reported, occurred on the 13th inst. by striking the remains of the wreck of the *Feima* while crossing the Woosung Bar. She was bound from Nagasaki to Shanghai with a cargo of coals.

By an Imperial Edict dated the 14th inst. Li Han-chang, the Viceroy of Canton, against whom serious charges had been brought by two Censors, is allowed to retire. By another Edict dated the 17th inst. Tan Chun-lin, Viceroy of Szechuen, has been ordered to proceed at once to Canton to take his place.

A pool arrangement has been entered into by the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co., Limited, and the China Navigation Co., on the one side, and the opposition Chinese owned steamers on the other, with reference to the trade between Hongkong and Canton. The agreement was signed on the 23rd inst.

We (*Echo*) learn that some native merchants have obtained from the local authorities permission to start a Mint at Foochow. The stamps and machinery have been ordered and are expected from home shortly, and the Mint will be erected on the Bridge Island, next to the large restaurant. It is proposed to coin only subsidiary coinage at first.

The *Yiksang*, which was seized by the Japanese in consequence of having contraband goods on board, is now at Sasebo. It was expected that the Prize Court would be opened on the 22nd inst. Mr. Hanson, a Shanghai solicitor, who was passing through in the *Empress of China*, stayed at Nagasaki awaiting developments, whilst Mr. Walford, of Yokohama, had been summoned, by telegram, to assist in representing the owners.

A number of European ladies at Shanghai have formed a society called the T'ien Tau Hui, or Natural Feet Society, the object of which is to print and distribute pamphlets, leaflets, and pictures among the Chinese on the subject of the prevailing practice of foot-binding, to encourage the formation of leagues, and in other ways influence native opinion. It also proposes to offer from time to time prizes for the best Chinese essays on the subject.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce was held on the 19th inst., when the Chairman, the Hon. J. J. Keswick, gave an interesting resumé of the commercial history of the year. A resolution was passed drawing the attention of the Government to the necessity of increased wharf accommodation for steam launches, and another requesting the Government to legislate against the chopping of the new British dollar.

The treaty of peace between China and Japan was ratified on the 21st inst. China pays an indemnity of Tls. 200,000,000, cedes Liaotung Peninsula and the island of Formosa, allows the import of machinery and the establishment of manufactures, and agrees to open five additional ports to trade, namely, Shaoking (on the Si-kiang or West River), in Kwangtung province, Peking, Huohow (near Soochow) in Chekiang province, Chengtu in Szechuen province, and Kaifong in Honan province.

According to a Yokohama telegram to the *Mercury*, dated 19th April, a telegram had that day been received from Seoul stating that a conspiracy against the Throne had been discovered. Li Shun-yun, a grandson of the Taiwonkun, was arrested on the 18th charged with treason. His object was to dethrone the King and to seat himself upon the Throne. The Taiwonkun made strenuous endeavours to obtain the release of his grandson, but without success.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes under date of the 5th inst.:—About a week ago the British fast cruiser *Edgar*, while passing Shanhaikwan, distant some six miles, had seven shots fired at her from the forts. One plunged into the sea within about half a mile of the vessel. Had the shot been fired low so as to the skim the surface it might have done some damage. There appears to be no good reason why the vessel should not have been recognised, if not surely as a Britisher at least as not a Japanese vessel.

The following Imperial Edict, we learn from the *Mercury*, was issued on the 10th inst.:—From the report of Lui Ping-hang, the Governor of Shantung, we learn that Lieutenant-General Liu Pao-sing, Brigadier-General Chang Wen-sun, Lieutenant-General Yang Ying-lien, and Major Wang Chan-lien all died faithfully doing their duty at Weihai. The Board of War is hereby ordered to have mercy on those officials in deciding what honours are to be bestowed upon them. As for Admiral Ting, who committed suicide after surrendering that stronghold, it is needless to take notice of his death, as he has been guilty of great crimes, which he scarcely atoned for by his death.

A small political crisis has arisen in Hongkong in connection with the Sanitary Board and the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health. Some time ago the Governor wanted to abolish the Board, but this was condemned by public opinion and disallowed by the Secretary of State. The Board having applied for the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health, a gentleman has been appointed to that position, but instead of being made an officer of the Board he has been endowed with independent powers, a Bill having been passed by the Legislative Council for that purpose, and is made responsible to the Government direct and not to the Board. The result would be to practically supersede the Board, and the unofficial members have intimated their intention of resigning.

The finances of Tonkin appear to be in a bad way. From the *Avenir du Tonkin* we learn that the Treasury was compelled some weeks ago to suspend payment, except as regards official salaries, and it was with difficulty that the charge for these was met. The situation was grave, and was made the more so inasmuch as the Banque de l'Indo-Chine had informed various merchants and contractors that they must not expect to receive any accommodation from that institution. On the 8th inst. the following telegram was despatched to M. Le Myre de Vilers, the Colony's Deputy:—"The Protectorate has suspended payment for the last twenty-six days; situation grave; failures feared; urgent interpellation necessary." Next day the following reply was received:—"The Chamber will discuss the financial situation to-morrow. A provisional credit of five hundred thousand francs has been opened." On the same day the Treasury was authorised to pay the claims that had been standing over, commencing with the most urgent.

THE COMMERCIAL TERMS OF THE CHINA-JAPANESE TREATY

Whatever differences of opinion may prevail as to the territorial concessions to be made by China to Japan all parties will be united in hailing with some measure of satisfaction the commercial terms of the new treaty. Several new ports and inland towns are to be opened to trade, including Nanking and Peking, lekin taxes are to be limited to 2 per cent., and permission is to be given to the Japanese, and, therefore, under the favoured nation clause, to the subjects of other treaty powers, to open cotton factories and to engage in other industries in China. The question is, how far will these terms be enforced? Under the existing treaties goods having paid import duty should be subject only to an additional two and a half per cent. for transit duty, but as a matter of fact the provincial authorities impose almost what squeezes they like on foreign merchandise, especially in the South, where the transit pass regulations have been openly flouted. So, again, with regard to the import of machinery; the Chinese Government have no right whatever to prohibit its import, yet they have successfully done so. Will similar infractions of treaty stipulations be tolerated in future? Probably not, at least so far as Japan is concerned. The active and enterprising merchants and manufacturers of the Land of the Rising Sun will be eager to take the fullest advantage of the privileges secured by the new treaty and their Government will be vigilant in the protection of those privileges. We may expect, therefore, that not only will there be a considerable increase in the trade in articles of import, but that there will also be a rapid expansion of manufacturing industry in China, especially in the manufacture of cotton goods, and that Shanghai and the Yangtze ports will become a second Lancashire. Europeans will be at liberty to take part in this great industry and no doubt some of the surplus capital of the West, unable to find profitable employment there, will find its way out to China. Many English manufacturers have set up establishments on the continent of Europe when circumstances made such a movement seem desirable, either on account of hostile tariffs, cheaper labour, or, what has become an important item, to secure the advantage for their shipments to Asia and Australia of the cheaper freights which British shipping companies charge from Continental ports as compared with those charged from home ports. In China the advantages offered to capital employed in the cotton industry will be cheap labour, a supply of the raw material close at hand, a ready market, and the total saving of ocean shipping charges. With such inducements as these it can scarcely be doubted that some of the Lancashire manufacturers will open establishments in China. From one point of view that may inspire regret, for it is not without a feeling of discontent that one can see particular industries transferred from his own country to another, even though compensation may be anticipated in a general increase of trade in other directions. But whether English capital and enterprise are used in the development of the cotton industry in China or not, it seems certain that the development will take place, provided the terms of the treaty are duly carried out. And the growth of manufactures should bring in its train the construction of railways and in fact the general opening up of the country. But we have to reckon with the painful facts that China is essentially unprogressive and that her official system is hopelessly corrupt. Bright hopes have been entertained after her previous rude awakenings, but the country

has speedily gone to sleep again and the hopes have been in a large degree disappointed. Whatever progress takes place in China will have to be forced upon her from without. The special feature of hopefulness in the present situation is that pressure is now likely to be applied at closer quarters and more continuously, for Japan is, by reason of her geographical situation, in a better position than any of the European Powers to enforce speedy compliance with just demands or redress of flagrant abuses.

THE OPENING OF THE WEST RIVER.

It is reported that amongst the Chinese ports to be opened to foreign trade under the new treaty with Japan is Shaoking. This means the opening of the West River to steam navigation up to that point. Some disappointment will be felt that the river is not to be opened to a greater extent, but it will now be for the British Minister to again urge this matter and endeavour to secure further concessions. Mr. O'CONNOR has always taken a warm interest in the project for the opening up of the West River and he may be relied upon to do his best in the matter, but his hand would probably be strengthened by another memorial from the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce. Wuchow, in Kwangsi, some twelve miles from the Eastern boundary of that province, and at the junction of the Fu Ho with the West River, has hitherto been regarded as the port to which it was most important to obtain access, and after it Nanning. The West River has been surveyed to Wuchow and is navigable up to that point by vessels drawing 12 feet. The navigability of the river beyond Wuchow is a matter of some uncertainty, no detailed and scientific survey having been made. As to the accessibility of Wuchow to steamers, however, there is no doubt, and the place being a large trade junction that is the point to which immediate attention should be given. Its distance from Canton is about two hundred miles. Shaoking, on Shuihung as it is more generally called, although ranking politically before Wuchow, is inferior to it in mercantile importance. It is a town of some 20,000 inhabitants, about ninety miles from Canton, and was formerly the capital of the Kwangtung province. The Viceregal yamen is still maintained there and the Viceroy visits it three or four times a year, travelling, it may be remarked, by steamer, one of the gunboats of the Canton flotilla being used for His Excellency's conveyance. Shaoking as a trading centre has not attracted very much attention from foreign travellers hitherto, but possibly the Japanese, with their efficient intelligence service, may have formed a juster appreciation of its importance. In the report of Mr. Moss, who made an expedition up the West River on behalf of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce in 1870, Wuchow was the first place noticed of any importance from a trading point of view. Mr. H. SHROETER, of Canton, who made a journey up the river in 1886 and wrote an excellent monograph on its trade capabilities, says:—"As matters stand at present only two ports can be taken into consideration. The first and, for the present, more important one is Wuchow-fu; the second, Nanning-fu. Steamers should also be allowed to touch, for the purposes of landing or shipping passengers and goods into or from native boats, at Shaoking-fu and Tu-shing." In 1868, when the question of the extension to British subjects of the privilege of residence and trade in the interior was under consideration in connection with Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK's convention, Sir BROOKE ROBERT-

SON wrote a memorandum on inland towns in Kwangtung, in which he suggested as points for residence Shaochow-fu on the North River, Shaoking-fu on the West River, and Poklo, Sheklung, and Hweichow-fu on the East River, Fatsshan, and Taeling. Sir BROOKE ROBERTSON, it should perhaps be noted, was not in favour of the opening up of the interior. Concentration, he said, and not extension, should be the foreign merchant's object, the former being strength and the latter weakness; and he suggested as places of residence the towns named only in the event of the policy of which he disapproved being decided upon. Having briefly described the various towns seriatim, he wrote:—"There may be other towns in the interior of equal importance, but I have little or no information about them. I have been up the great West River, second only to the Yangtze in size, so far as Wuchow-fu in Kwangsi, some 194 miles. The towns, however, were poor in appearance, and there was little evidence of trade. It is apparent, therefore, that the centre of commerce is the rich alluvial districts that surround Canton in a radius of 170 miles, and beyond that, as far as I have seen, mountain land, ancient and rather dilapidated walled cities, and a spare population prevail." The selection of Shaoking by the Japanese would appear to be an endorsement to some extent of Sir BROOKE ROBERTSON's views on this point. In 1885, however, when the French treaty relating to the frontier trade between Tonkin and South-western China was under consideration, and Mr. Consul GARDNER was asked to report on the probable effect of that agreement on trade by the West River, while reporting that he did not consider the trade via Tonkin would materially interfere with the West River trade, he strongly urged the opening of Wuchow. If a treaty port was to be opened on the West River, he said, he thought Wuchow should be selected, and he set out his reasons as follows:—"In the first place, because I am told that Wuchow is about the highest point of the West River easily reachable by steamers. Secondly, because Wuchow is situated at the junction of the West River and the Fu River. The Fu River is itself an important waterway flowing through a rich district and passing various populous towns such as Kwei-lin, etc. Its importance was greatly increased some years ago by the digging of a canal connecting it with the Siang River, which, after passing the important towns of Yung-chow, Heng Chow, and Chang-sha, flows into the Tung-ting Lake. The Canton boats I saw at Ichang in 1873 had come from Canton by the above route." Kwei-lin, the capital of Kwangsi, is situated about 150 miles up the Fu Ho. As was pointed out in the memorial of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce to the Foreign Secretary two years ago, hitherto Kwei-lin has been sparsely supplied with piece goods, etc., under transit pass from Hankow, although its distance is three times greater than that from Canton. For all practical purposes, the memorial went on to say, Kwangsi and Kweichow are shut out from participation in foreign trade, and Yunnan is only reached at great cost from Tonkin and the Yangtze ports, whence goods are sent under transit pass; but the total volume of trade is exceedingly limited owing to distance and cost of transport. It is important, therefore, that steam navigation should be permitted to the highest accessible point. It must not be supposed, however, that the opening of Wuchow would lead to the establishment of a flourishing foreign settlement at that port. Trade would remain for the most part in the

hands of the Chinese and foreign interests would be represented perhaps solely by the steamship agencies. But the trade in foreign goods would be largely increased and the beneficial effect would be felt both in England and in Hongkong.

THE NEW BRITISH DOLLAR AND THE CHOPPING SYSTEM.

Mr. T. JACKSON deserves the thanks of the mercantile community for the remarks he made at the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on Friday in reference to the chopping of dollars. With the advent of the British dollar it was hoped that the chopped Mexican would disappear from circulation, that the colony would be in possession of a clean and respectable currency, and that every dollar would be what it purported to be and would not be subject to a discount on account of an absurd and wasteful defacement. Mr. JACKSON says, however, that in order to meet the special requirements of this colony, as they say at home, the Government is to allow the British dollar to be chopped and still remain legal tender. If that decision should be carried out it would be an unfortunate thing for the colony, as the opportunity would then be lost of putting the currency on a proper basis. The mutilation of the coins places the currency of Hongkong at a discount as compared with that of Japan and the Straits, where chopping is not practised, and in the ordinary retail transactions in the colony itself the possessor of a chopped dollar on paying it away is liable to be mulcted in a discount of a cent or two. The objections to chopping are therefore not founded on merely sentimental considerations. Payments in settlement of large commercial transactions are now usually made in bank notes or by cheque and the inconvenience of chopped dollars is therefore not so great as it was in the earlier days of the colony. It would appear, too, if Mr. GRANTVILLE SHARP is correct—and he is an authority on the subject—that the practice of chopping is itself going out of fashion. "The Chinese," Mr. SHARP says, "are in no way in favour of chopping dollars. Every 'hong' occasionally chops a thousand dollars as a sort of demonstration in order to be able to say 'We always chop our coins, and if you want us to exchange a bad dollar you must show us our mark upon it.' The practice is now fast going out, and you may now go into Bonham Strand and that district without hearing the chopping hammer being used. There is now very little of it, and I feel sure that if Mr. Jackson and other bankers were to adopt a plan of discouraging this method, we should have a clean currency, and save thereby four-fifths of the trouble of shroffing." If this is a correct statement of the present position it would be especially foolish for the British Government to favour the perpetuation of a discredited system, which is itself gradually dropping out of use. The new British dollar if properly treated has every prospect of success, but if it is subjected to mutilation it is impossible to say what may be its fate. It is slightly inferior to the Mexican in weight and the destructive process of chopping will therefore be relatively more deleterious to the British than to the Mexican dollar. If it should happen that a large quantity of the dollars chopped to such an extent as to reduce them below the legal limit of "least current weight" should accumulate in Chinese hands some concerted attempt would no doubt be made to palm them off on the foreign merchant and let him bear the loss. In 1887 business in the cotton and yarn trade was stopped

for nearly three weeks in consequence of a dispute between foreigners and Chinese in reference to payment in broken silver. Foreign firms had succeeded in establishing the custom of payment in clean dollars or bank notes. All went well for a time, but at last the Chinese determined to make an attempt to force their chopped dollars on the European importers, by which the latter would be losers and the former gainers to the extent of one per cent. And unfortunately the attempt succeeded for a time, owing to want of combination amongst the European firms. The system of payment by bank notes, cheque, or clean dollar has since been re-established, but history has a way of repeating itself, and with a mutilated currency business is liable at any time to be brought to a standstill by disputes between buyers and sellers as to the medium of payment. The standard coin of a country ought to admit of no dispute as to its value, and the dollar circulating in Hongkong ought to be relatively as reliable a coin as the gold sovereign of Great Britain. The Chamber of Commerce on Friday passed a resolution requesting the Government to legislate for the protection of the new coins from the foolish practice of chopping and defacement. The Government will do great injury to the interests of the colony if it fails to comply with the request.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SANITARY BOARD.

(19th April.)

The Legislative Council passed the Medical Officer of Health Bill on Wednesday and so perpetrated another absurdity. The Hon. Ho KAI made a very sensible speech in opposition to the Bill, in which he urged that the officer should exercise powers delegated to him by the Board, instead of being endowed with independent powers. The Sanitary Board, the hon. member pointed out, is the existing authority in the colony for sanitary matters, and the inspection of houses and everything pertaining thereto was placed under the Board, and solely under the Board; but the present Ordinance gave power of inspection to another man, namely, the Medical Officer of Health. The Colonial Secretary in reply said he had endeavoured to find in the hon. gentleman's remarks some cogent reason for not passing the Bill, but in vain. We trust the speech he made on Wednesday is not a fair sample of the debating power of our new Colonial Secretary. The hon. gentleman must be aware that when new measures are introduced it is the duty of those introducing them to show reasons why they should be passed, not to introduce them without any statement of reasons and then ask the opposition to show why they should not be passed. But in the present instance not a word was said directly in favour of the Bill, presumably because nothing could be said, and the Colonial Secretary's reply to the Hon. Ho KAI was feeble, illogical, and, so far as a question of fact was involved, inaccurate. Some time ago a Commission was appointed to enquire into the working of the Medical Department. That Commission consisted of Deputy Inspector-General KNOTT, of the Royal Navy, Surgeon-Colonel PRESTON, of the Army Medical Staff, Dr. CANTLIE, the Hon. A. McCONACHIE, and Mr. THURBURN. The Colonial Secretary said that the views expressed in the Commission's report were similar to those embodied in the Bill under consideration, except that the Commission considered that instead of the Medical Officer having a seat and a vote at the Sanitary Board he should only have a seat with a consultative voice. That was answered by the Hon. A. McCONACHIE

reading an extract from the report of the Commission, which was as follows:—"That the Medical Officer should be adviser to the Government on all sanitary matters through the Sanitary Board, to which he should be attached, and on which he should occupy a seat. He should have no vote, his duties on the Board being purely of an advisory nature, it being undesirable that he should enter into discussion on the point on which he should be called upon to advise, his duties being of a similar nature to those laid down by the Corporation of the City of London." The question of whether the officer should have a vote on the Sanitary Board or not is of secondary importance; the important point is that his recommendations to the Government should be made through the Board and that he should carry out the directions of the Board. The Commission recommended that his duties should be of a similar nature to those laid down by the Corporation of the City of London. The Ordinance does not carry out that recommendation. Every one knows what the duties of Medical Officers of Health at home are, and the duties of the officer in Hongkong should be similar, that is, he should report to and advise the Sanitary Authority and carry out the directions of that body. It is intended, however, that Surgeon-Major Westcott shall be independent of the Sanitary Board, although himself a member of that body, and it will be incompetent for the Board to give him any directions:

Certain duties and responsibilities are thrown upon the Sanitary Board by law and if those duties and responsibilities are to be properly discharged the Board must have a sufficient and competent staff of officers. A short time ago it was proposed that the offices of Secretary to the Board and Sanitary Superintendent should be separated and that a new appointment should be made as Sanitary Superintendent. It was, however, agreed after discussion that if a Health Officer was appointed a separate officer as Sanitary Superintendent would be unnecessary, but that was on the assumption that the Health Officer would be an officer of the Board. Now that it is seen the Health Officer, however valuable his services may be considered by the Government, will be of no direct assistance to the Board, possibly the former proposal will be revived, and if carried into effect it will mean that the colony will have to pay for two officers where one would do. The Colonial Secretary says he does not see how any collision could occur between the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Board. Well, there may not be collision, but will there be co-operation, which is the important thing? Not so long as the arrangement now decided upon continues. The Medical Officer will have no control over the Sanitary Board's staff of Inspectors, and what good he can effect without the assistance of such a staff we fail to see. As the Hon. Ho KAI remarked, the officer ought to take charge of the inspecting staff and see that they carry out their work in a proper manner. But as he is not to be himself an officer of the Board, the Board cannot give him authority over its staff, and the appointment of Surgeon-Major Westcott seems likely, therefore, to serve no useful purpose. The appointment has evidently been made in a spirit of hostility to the Board and under conditions intended to carry out the disastrous policy hitherto pursued of endeavouring to cast heavy responsibilities upon the Board while refusing it the necessary means of carrying out its duties. It has not been stated to what department Surgeon-Major Westcott is to be attached, but he is not to belong to the Sanitary Department. Will

he then belong to the Colonial Surgeon's Department or form a separate department in himself? In either case the appointment seems likely to prove an expensive one for the colony. As Surgeon-Major Westcott's services are not to be placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Board the Board will require another officer, and as the Sanitary staff will not be at the disposal of Surgeon-Major Westcott that officer will no doubt apply for a staff of his own, and so we will have two departments to maintain where one would suffice and as is usual in cases of divided responsibility the result will be both costly and unsatisfactory. The arrangement affords a conspicuous instance of governmental bungling. It is reported that the elected members of the Sanitary Board, Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., and Mr. R. K. LEIGH, have decided to resign as a protest against the action of the Government in this matter, but we hope they will not do so until they have endeavoured to secure the passing of a resolution embodying a protest on the part of the Board as a whole.

(24th April.)

The collision between the Government and the Sanitary Board, if proper advantage be taken of the circumstance, may lead to a considerable extension of the powers of the Board. In making the Medical Officer of Health entirely independent of the Board, the Government was evidently influenced by a desire to reduce that body to a nullity. It was impossible that the unofficial members of the Board should sit down quietly under the insult, but whether resignation at the present juncture is altogether advisable may be open to question. What the unofficial members should do now is to memorialise the Secretary of State, and at the same time a memorial from the community at large, in support of the unofficial members, should be submitted. Such a memorial, we venture to think, would be signed by all but a very small minority of the ratepayers, for there cannot be much doubt as to the state of public feeling in the colony. The Government might try to throw a little dust in the eyes of the Secretary of State by referring to the fact that the Hon. Ho Kai's motion in opposition to the Medical Officer of Health Bill in the Legislative Council did not find a seconder and to the letter from the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce attacking the Board, but that might be anticipated and answered in the memorial. The attack by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce was framed at a time when secret meetings of the Legislative Council were being held and a course of procedure was being adopted of which the community disapproved scarcely less strongly than it did of the action of the committee appointed to confer with the Government during the recent strike. The history of the strike committee illustrates the danger of an unquestioning submission to the authority of men whose position might seem to entitle them to be considered leaders of public opinion. A number of gentlemen were selected on account of the high positions they held in commerce to endeavour to bring the strike to a conclusion, but they committed such an egregious and disastrous blunder—a blunder so great as to put most governmental blunders in the shade—that it became necessary, in view of the pressing emergency, to at once repudiate their action. The unofficial members of the Legislative Council in countenancing the attempt of the Government to strangle the Sanitary Board have made as great a mistake as did the strike committee and are as far from representing public opinion. And in view of the connection of some of the unofficial members

of Council with the Chamber of Commerce it is not difficult to trace the genesis of the letter of the Committee of the Chamber embodying the attack on the Sanitary Board—a letter written while the secret conferences between the Government and the unofficial members of Council were in progress and which, after being kept dark for five months, by a curious coincidence sees the light just at the time when legislation against the Sanitary Board has been passed and the conflict has broken out. The Government may think it has a very valuable weapon in the letter of the Chamber of Commerce, but it is likely to find that it is a double-edged one. And in connection with the position taken up by the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, it must be noted that they are not unanimous, as one of them, the Hon. Ho Kai, opposed the Medical Officer of Health Bill, and another, the Hon. A. McConachie, asked for delay until the report of the Medical Commission had been published. The Bill was, however, passed and the Government has entered on a direct conflict with the Sanitary Board. The matter should now be carried to the Secretary of State, and, if it is, there can be little doubt as to what the result will be. A few years ago there was a similar conflict at Gibraltar, where the Governor tried to thwart the Sanitary Board and reduce its powers to next to nothing. The matter was brought before the home Government, with the result that the Board achieved a complete victory. It will be so in the case of Hongkong. And while the colony is about the matter it may as well make its demands as complete as the immediate circumstances seem to require and ask to have the water and drainage departments placed under the control of the Sanitary Board. There is little doubt that that request also would be granted. It may be thought that the rejection of the recent petition for an increase in the number of unofficial members of the Legislative Council does not augur well for the success of a memorial such as that we now suggest; but the two things are entirely different. Whether we agree with it or not, the view that the Governor must be supported by an official majority in the Legislative Council and that it would be politically dangerous to subject him to the risk of being outvoted in that body must be recognised as at least a logical and defensible one. That is the view held by the Imperial Government with regard to the constitution of the Legislative Councils of the Eastern Crown Colonies; but in regard to sanitary matters the Imperial Government has for many years past consistently followed out the policy of encouraging, and even compelling, local communities to manage their own affairs, and in India, as in England, comparatively small towns have their own sanitary authorities. Local self-government as regards sanitation can be attended by no possible political danger and its advantages have been proved by long experience. It goes without saying, therefore, that Lord Ripon will disapprove wholly and entirely of the attempt now being made by the Hongkong Government to crush the Sanitary Board out of existence. Possibly the Governor, after consideration, may see fit to comply with the request of the Board that the Medical Officer of Health should be appointed as one of its officers, and so bring the conflict to an end, but now that the matter has gone so far it would almost be better for the Sanitary Board and the colony, though not for the Governor, that the dispute should be fought out to its logical conclusion and be settled at home. Of the moral responsibility incurred by the Governor in throwing the Sanitary Department into a state of disorganisation

at a crisis when the colony is threatened with another visitation of the plague we prefer at present to say nothing.

THE STATE OF TRADE IN THE COLONY.

Attached to the Registrar-General's report for 1894 is a table showing the number of Chinese shops opened and the number closed during the year. This ought to afford some index to the state of trade in the colony and from that point of view the figures must be considered eminently satisfactory. The Harbour Master's report showed that, notwithstanding a slight diminution in the tonnage making use of the port, there was an actual increase last year in the amount of cargo landed and shipped. The figures given by the Harbour Master are, however, necessarily approximate only, as it is not compulsory on merchants or shipping agents to make correct returns of imports and exports, but so far as they go the figures show an increase in the trade of the colony. And this conclusion is confirmed by the Registrar-General's returns of shops opened and closed, which we presume are fairly accurate, the information being collected under the provisions of the Regulation of Chinese Ordinance, under which it is compulsory to report all changes of tenancy and to furnish particulars as to the profession or trade of persons renting any portion of a house. In a year like 1894, when the colony was visited with the plague, when for some weeks business was practically suspended, and when a large and thickly built area was compulsorily vacated by the occupants and closed up, it might have been expected that the number of shops closed would have shown a considerable excess over those opened. Such, however, is not the case, for the number of shops opened was 1,031 and the number closed 862, an excess in favour of shops opened of 169. The publication of the Registrar-General's report was only revived four years ago after a very long interval, so that a comparison with previous years cannot be carried further back than that, but it will be interesting to give the figures for that period. The following table shows the number of shops opened and closed in the respective years and the balance of openings over closings:—

Year	Opened	Closed	Balance
1891.....	932	876	56
1892.....	1,148	983	165
1893.....	1,128	936	192
1894.....	1,031	862	169
Total	4,239	3,657	582

These figures do not enable us to draw any deductions as to the increase in the gross turn-over of Chinese shops and bongs. In some cases no doubt large businesses have been closed and several smaller ones opened in their places, but on the whole it may be taken for granted that a general increase in the number of shops indicates an increase in trade. In the earlier years covered by the above table the increase in the number of shops was fairly evenly distributed over all the districts, but last year there was necessarily a decrease in Taipingshan, where the number closed was 180 and the number opened 154 only. All the other districts showed an increase. Turning to the various classes of business carried on in shops opened or closed, we find that 49 merchants opened establishments and 32 closed; general goods dealers, 48 opened and 20 closed; piece goods dealers, 14 opened and 4 closed; rattan dealers, 26 opened and 10 closed; rattan chair makers, 26 opened and 14 closed; mat bag dealers, 54 opened and 37 closed. That 10 bakers and 23 eating house keepers should have

opened as against 2 and 18 closed would seem to show that notwithstanding the large exodus during the plague there was, taking the year as a whole, an increased demand for food; but on the other hand there was a decrease in rice dealers, the number of shops opened under this designation being 25 and the number closed 31. Other decreases were as follows:—Chandlers, opened 60, closed 77; carpenters, opened 40, closed 45; silversmiths, opened 16, closed 21; tailors, opened 32, closed 44. The total decreases are, however, largely outnumbered by the increases, and the colony may congratulate itself that it was able to stand a blow like the plague with so little check to the growth of its trade.

THE CANTON STEAMERS AGREEMENTS.

After many years of opposition on the Canton River, the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company and the China Navigation Company—which have long worked in conjunction—have come to an arrangement with the Chinese owned steamers running on the great waterway of Kwangtung. The agreement, which was signed yesterday, provides for a uniform tariff of passage rates and freight charges, and these are not to be materially increased from the low scale heretofore in force as the result of the competition. Of course there will be some increase, because the rates charged of late years have been insufficient to ensure a fair dividend and provide for the proper working, depreciation, &c., of the fine steamers hitherto employed by the Steamboat Companies, and which have ensured both comfort and safety to the travelling public. No commercial undertaking is, or ought to be, started for a philanthropic purpose; it is, and ought to be, set on foot for the purpose of profitably employing capital, and the capitalist is entitled to such profits as he can legitimately secure. It is to be hoped the companies who have for so long worked the river service under adverse conditions will in future obtain a fitting reward for their enterprise. The time for coming to an agreement with the small fry who were rendering the carrying trade so unprofitable, if it were ever politic to admit of it, had certainly arrived. The present war between China and Japan will have, as one of its consequences, the opening up of the upper waters of the Pearl River to foreign trade and navigation. This will lead to a very considerable expansion of the river trade, of which the existing companies will naturally take the lion's share. As the Chairman of the local Steamboat Company stated at the last half yearly meeting, the contingency has not been lost sight of, and no doubt new light draught steamers will be ordered as soon as any chance of their being required is known. The agreement for five years among the river steamship owners, seeing how largely it will affect local capital, is a matter for congratulation, more especially as it may, in the near future, have an important effect on the general prosperity of the Colony. At the same time shippers will be glad to know that there is no danger of rates being raised to a point likely to affect profits or restrict trade.

It is reported, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, that Viscount Aoki, who is expected to reach Japan by the *Empress of India*, will bring with him the ratification by Emperor William of the revised treaty concluded between Japan and Germany. He is expected to stay but a short time in Japan, returning to Europe almost immediately with the Japanese Emperor's ratification of the treaty.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 17th April. Present:—

His Excellency the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Hon. A. G. WISE, Acting Attorney-General.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.

Hon. R. M. RUMSEY, Harbour Master.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE, Acting Clerk of Councils.

REPORTS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table the report of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade for 1894, and the report of the Finance Committee. The reports were adopted.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS moved the adoption of the report of the Public Works Committee, a meeting of which was held on 11th April. This report was adopted.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Your Excellency, in moving the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to confer certain powers and authorities on the Medical Officer of Health, I really have nothing further to add to what I said last week, simply because the Bill is so short, and speaks for itself. There are two small additions, or alterations, which I intend to make when we get into Committee. One is to add a section which is simply about noting the appointment in the *Government Gazette*. With regard to the Bill itself, it has been determined that a Medical Officer of Health should be appointed, and under Section 1 the Governor has power to appoint him, and he will be a member of the Sanitary Board and perform the duties and have the privileges and rights of an ordinary member. Sections 3 and 4 will give him power to enter premises with or without assistants as he thinks best for himself. I have already spoken about the section respecting the notice in the *Gazette*, and under the circumstances I do not think there is anything further for me to do than to propose the second reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second.

Hon. HO KAI—I move that this Bill be not read a second time. There is no doubt that it is necessary to have a Medical Officer of Health in addition to the Medical Officer for the port. The officer for the port has to look after the shipping, and his time is fully occupied, and it is impossible for him to combine the two offices. It is evident no doubt to the Government, as well as to the public, that the Medical Officer of Health should be appointed, but this Bill is introduced not to appoint a Medical Officer of Health, but to give him certain powers which, if he exercises them, must bring him into collision with the Sanitary Board. The Sanitary Board is the existing authority in the colony for sanitary matters, and the inspection of houses and everything appertaining thereto was placed under the Board and solely under the Board. Now this Ordinance seems to give that power to another man, namely, the Medical Officer of Health, and besides that it was always thought necessary by the public, and also by the Sanitary Board, that the Board should have a Medical Officer of Health attached to it, to advise the Board, and to carry out certain duties which the Sanitary Board must delegate to some one, and also to take charge of the inspecting staff and to see that they carry out their work in a proper manner. Now if this Ordinance be not passed, and if the Medical Officer of Health were appointed by your Excellency, and appointed as one of the official members of the Board, then I think there would be no doubt about the usefulness of the Medical Officer. He would then, being an officer of the Government, and taking his position on the Board as an official member of the Sanitary Board, be able to give his advice and have certain duties assigned to him by the Board as a whole, and also, if such power of inspection is conferred upon him by the President of the Sanitary Board there will be no use at all for this Ordinance. It is useless to pass this Ordinance.

ance in its present form, because the duties to which it refers could be delegated to its Medical Officer by the Sanitary Board. The Board has passed resolutions for the guidance of the Veterinary Surgeon who is attached to the Board, and also regulations referring to the duties of the various officers who assist the Board in carrying out the sanitary arrangements of the colony. If this Medical Officer is appointed he could very well be attached to the Board in some way. I think there was a Medical Commission appointed by your Excellency to consider the subject of the medical staff of this colony. I do not know whether that Commission has sent in to the Government its report, but certainly it is not before this Council, and I do not know its recommendations, but I believe I express the public feeling in saying that there should be a Medical Officer of Health appointed, and that the officer should be attached to the Sanitary Board to assist the Board in carrying out its onerous duties, and he should have no separate power beyond what is conferred upon him by the Board, and that in all things he should be guided by the determination or resolution of the Board, so that there will be no friction and no cross purposes between the Medical Officer of Health and the Board.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Though the motion of the hon. member has not been seconded, it may be expected that some reply should be made to his remarks. I have listened with very great care to the remarks made by the hon. member in order to try to discover, if possible, some reason for his motion. I have listened in vain. I have endeavoured to find in them some good cogent reason for not passing this Bill to-day, but I think the hon. member has not advanced anything that will lead hon. members to concur in his views. He says that he expresses the opinion of the public, but his motion has not been seconded by any hon. member representing the public in this Council, which shows very clearly what the opinion is about it. He said that a Health Officer is an exceedingly needful officer, and everybody agreed that he must be appointed, but he then said that the officer would come into collision with the Sanitary Board. When I heard him say that a collision was likely to result, I was very anxious that he should point out in what way that collision would be likely to occur, but throughout the whole of his speech, he did not show in any way whatever how that collision could take place, and it would be interesting to know how the officer who is appointed under this Ordinance, and who is to advise the Board, can in any way come into collision with the Board. It is for the Board to reject or accept his advice on its own responsibility, and if collision arises it would only arise from a refusal of the Board to accept the views of the Medical Officer, who is qualified by his training to advise them on the subjects which it will be his special province to deal with. The hon. member quite agreed that this officer should advise the Board and have a seat on the Board, and therefore I cannot see why on earth he should raise any objection to his being appointed under this Ordinance. He also referred to the report of the Medical Commission which your Excellency had appointed to enquire into the working of the Medical Department of this colony. That Commission consisted of Deputy Inspector-General Knott, of the Royal Navy, Surgeon-Col. Preston, of the A.M.S., Dr. Cantlie, the hon. member who represents the Chamber of Commerce in this Council (Mr. McConachie), and Mr. Thurburn. The report of that Committee was not received until yesterday. I may inform the Council that the views expressed in that report are similar to those contained in this Bill, except that the committee consider instead of the officer having a seat and a vote he should have only a seat on the Sanitary Board with a consultative voice. The hon. member differs from the Commission, and for reasons which have been carefully considered the Government does not think it advisable to have an officer with professional experience sitting as a mere dummy, without even having power to give his vote in favour of his opinions. I trust the report will be published in due course. The Government think it is only right and fair that the Medical Officer should back his opinions. The hon. member referred in his speech to by his vote public opinion in this colony being in favour of his views. My own impression is that that opinion is the other way. If public opinion

is such as was expressed by the hon. member, how is it that his motion has not been seconded by any of the hon. unofficial members in this Council representing the large interests in Hongkong? I do not think it is necessary for me to enter into further details on the subject. The hon. member has not advanced any reasons whatever to show why the Bill should not be passed or to show how this officer as appointed will do anything but promote the sanitary welfare of this colony, which is of supreme importance to all the residents of Hongkong.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE—I do not think that it is at all urgent that this Bill should be passed to-day. I merely suggest that delay may be granted until after the members have had an opportunity of seeing the report issued by the Medical Commission.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have already explained to the Council that the Medical Commission differs only as to what status should be assigned to the Medical Officer as a Member of the Sanitary Board: instead of a vote they consider he should have only a consultative voice. I am unable to see what good purpose would be served in delaying this matter. It is important that there should be as little delay as possible. Delays have already occurred, and although a medical officer has been kindly placed at the disposal of the Government by the Military Authorities more than a month ago, the Government, in consequence of difficulties as to his status, has not availed itself of his services. A further delay is to be deprecated. The Government is much indebted to the Medical Commission for its valuable report, which will receive the care and attention it so fully deserves.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE—I would like to read the exact words.

HIS EXCELLENCY—From the report of the Commission?

Hon. A. McCONACHIE—Yes.

The hon. member then read the following quotation, "That the medical officer should be adviser to the Government on all sanitary matters through the Sanitary Board to which he should be attached, and on which he should occupy a seat. He should have no vote, his duties on the Board being purely of an advisory nature, it being undesirable that he should enter into discussion on points on which he should be called upon to advise, his duties to be of a similar nature to those laid down by the Bradford Corporation and the City of London."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I think that represents what I said on the subject. If there was anything I omitted it was unintentionally done.

The Council then went into Committee, and after two small amendments, and an additional minor clause being added, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council then adjourned until Wednesday week.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH ORDINANCE.

RESIGNATION OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board, called at the requisition of members, was held on Monday afternoon, Mr. F. H. May presiding. There were also present Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., Mr. R. K. Leigh, Hon. Ho Kai, and Mr. W. E. Crow, Acting Secretary.

Mr. FRANCIS, in a long speech, said he desired to draw the attention of the Board to the appointment, gazetted in Saturday's *Gazette*, of a Medical Officer of Health, and to the communication received by the Board from the Government defining the duties and position to be occupied by the Medical Officer. The Government had stated that the new officer, Surgeon-Major Westcott, would act under the Government and not under the Board. As a matter of fact under the Public Health Act the Medical Officer of Health in England was an officer of the Sanitary Authority in every urban and rural district, no matter how small, no matter how unimportant, and no matter what people constituted the Sanitary Board. In Hongkong they had three fully qualified medical men on the Board, and yet this Medical Officer of Health is placed as a member of the Board, to advise the Board, but not to act under the direction of the

Board, but under the directions of the Government. The by-laws had been carefully copied from the instructions of the Local Government Board in England, but with the omission of everything that was necessary to give him a proper status in connection with this Board. He was required to act directly under the authority of the Governor, and he would act absolutely independently of this Board on which he had a seat. The officer was in the position of—he did not mean any offence to Dr. Westcott—but he was in the position of a spy. It had been alleged that the Sanitary Board was not capable of performing its duties, and that the sooner it was got rid of the better. But the Sanitary Board had not shown itself incapable of doing its work efficiently and thoroughly. The Permanent Committee had performed all the duties imposed upon it during the trying crisis last year, and the by-laws were enforced promptly, efficiently, courageously, and without regard to any consequences whatever so long as the interests of the colony were concerned. He for one would refuse to serve on the Sanitary Board under existing circumstances. By acting under the orders of the Government Dr. Westcott would only be an impediment to the Board and not an assistance. There had been several conflicts between the Government and the Board, and the Government had on many occasions refused to assist the Board or act upon suggestions which had been made. The Government had not on a single occasion consulted the Board in reference to the plague, although the Government had consulted everybody else. Under the present conditions the unofficial members and the Permanent Committee would not move one hand towards getting work done during the plague. He resigned his appointment as a member of the Permanent Committee, and also as a member of the Sanitary Board, and he should notify to his electors—the ratepayers of Hongkong—the fact that he could not, under existing circumstances, any longer usefully act as a member of the Sanitary Board. (Applause.)

Dr. HARTIGAN heartily concurred with Mr. Francis's remarks, and hoped that the Government, who he could not think had considered the matter very fully, would now see the matter in its true light, unimpaired of individual prejudice, or ingrained or almost natural official dislike to anything however humble in the form of popular representation. The Legislature had deliberately chosen, without publicly giving any reason whatever, to give the Health Officer such a status as must necessarily entail either a dual control in sanitary matters, or enable the Government, through an officer responsible to itself alone, to direct or hamper the action of the Board; in short to subordinate the Board to an officer whose instructions may emanate from the prolific brain of an Acting Assistant Deputy Colonial Secretary. (Laughter). No Board having the slightest self-respect could acquiesce in such an arrangement; no men would throw away their time in attending such a farcical performance as the Board's meetings would be. They would only be equalled by the Legislative Council solemnly debating whether they should vote a certain sum of money to the home Government when the cash was already placed to the Crown Agents' credit in London. (Laughter). Some people declared that the members of the Board were making a fuss over a trifle. The Colonial Secretary called it a trifle; he (Dr. Hartigan) called it a principle. The Government could not hunt with the hare and run with the hounds. If they want one man power let them try it honestly, though it may seem like going back in a small way from 19th century ideas to the good old times of George III. and Lord North.

Mr. LEIGH said he must certainly resign his seat, first as a member of the Permanent Committee, and secondly as a member of the Board. He could not any longer consent to act upon the Board unless the whole system were changed. He had been a member of the Board only a year, but his position on the Permanent Committee had involved a considerable amount of work. If, however, the Board was restricted in any way, he could not act upon it any longer. It was quite clear that the Government had intended to do without them. All right; let them do so. Let it go on with its own one handed authority, and the landlords of this colony would live to rue the day.

Dr. HO KAI hoped the three gentlemen would reconsider their decision of resigning until the

matter was given further consideration, as by resigning they would be playing into the hands of their enemies, who wished to get rid of them. He thought the passing of the Ordinance was a mistake, and that the Medical Officer should have been attached to the Board in a similar way to any other officer. He proposed the following resolution:—"That a letter be addressed to the Colonial Secretary asking that His Excellency the Governor be pleased to make an order directing that the Medical Officer of Health shall not only advise the Board but assist the Board in the carrying out of its various executive duties and at all times place his services at the disposal of the Board, so that by resolution the Board can delegate to him part or any of its powers, duties, or functions; and, further, that the Government be requested to place the Medical Officer of Health in the same position as far as practicable in relation to this Board as a Health Officer is to the Sanitary Authority of his District at home."

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS seconded the resolution. He was considerably surprised to hear the remarks which had been made, and it appeared to him that members had assembled for the purpose of causing the collision which they all prophesied the Government would create for itself. He was at a loss to conceive why objection should be made to the Health Officer receiving his instructions from the Governor, as there was nothing in the Ordinance to permit of anyone giving instructions contrary to the wishes of the Board. That idea was, in plain language, simply moonshine, and there existed no justification whatever for such prophetic utterances.

The resolution was carried.

THE SANITARY BOARD AND THE PLAGUE.

THE DISEASE EPIDEMIC AT MACAO.

PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT.

At the special meeting of the Sanitary Board on Monday, Mr. Francis called the attention of the members to the plague at Macao.

Mr. FRANCIS said—Mr. President, the first thing I desire to draw your attention to is a letter which I received at 2.30 to-day from the Colonial Secretary, in which he says—"Sir, I am directed to transmit for the information of the Permanent Committee the enclosed reports (in original, to be returned) relative to the epidemic of plague at Macao.—I have the honour to be, &c., J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary." Enclosed were the following letters addressed to the Colonial Secretary.—"Sir, I have the honour to forward for the information of his Excellency the Governor the enclosed report from Inspector Quincey regarding the plague in Macao. The statement that there has been a large influx of prostitutes from Macao is confirmed from other sources.—I have &c., F. H. May." Inspector Quincey's report was as follows:—"22nd April. Sir, I have the honour to report that I have received news that the plague in Macao is worse. I am told that the day before yesterday over thirty persons died in one brothel in Fuk Sung San Kai. Seven girls out of nine died in one day. Many prostitutes have left Macao and come to Hongkong, and are located in the boarding houses on the Praya.—I have the honour to be, &c., W. Quincey."

Mr. FRANCIS continuing, said—The letter of the Colonial Secretary was addressed to me as Chairman of the Permanent Committee, and I think it my duty under the circumstances to move the Board to apply to the Government, under the provisions of section 31 of the Health Ordinance, to issue a proclamation, as the colony is threatened with the advent of an epidemic or an endemic of contagious disease and by the issue of such a proclamation to put into force sections 32, 37, and 38 of the Public Health Ordinance, which enables this Board to legislate for and to deal effectively by its own officers with any epidemic that might arise. The issue of such a proclamation now will involve no risk or danger to the colony. To wait until the epidemic has arrived in the colony, or until there are one or two cases in the colony, will be a very serious disadvantage, because a proclamation issued after the disease came here would become known at all the ports, and immediate action would be taken to quarantine this place, and to impose very serious restrictions

upon the shipping. The publication of the proclamation now, when the only statement in it will be that the colony is threatened with an epidemic will have no consequences upon trade, and it will invest this Board with all the necessary powers and authorities. It seems to me that the reports we have had from Hoihow, Macao, and various other places along the Canton river, and especially this last report of Inspector Quincey, show that the colony is distinctly threatened with the advent of the plague, and that it has been brought as near to our port as it can be without actually making its appearance, so that we must now ask for proper precautions to be taken. The effect of the proclamation would be to invest this Board, or some authorised person, with the fullest possible powers in case the epidemic should arise. Mr. Francis then read sections 32, 33, 34, and 35 of the Ordinance, and continued—It was in virtue of section 35 that the Permanent Committee suggested that we are unable to do everything that was done last year to provide officers and assistance of every description, to engage doctors from different ports, to provide hospitals and disinfectants, and I am decidedly of opinion—and I think members of this Board will agree with me—that if the epidemic of plague is coming here this year, the Board ought now to possess the same powers and authorities that we had last year, not for the purposes of legislation, but for carrying out the duties of this Board. I move that a letter be addressed to the Governor stating that the plague is threatening us, and asking him to put in force sections 32 and 37 of the Ordinance. I have had no opportunity of consulting the members of the Board and I do not know whether any member will be inclined to second the proposal.

Dr. HARTIGAN—I have great pleasure in seconding Mr. Francis's motion. I certainly think that if, after that letter, we stood by and did nothing, we should be grievously neglecting our duties. It is much better to try to keep out the disease than try to stamp it out afterwards—a course we may have to adopt if the proclamation is not issued.

Dr. H. KAI—I think the issue of the proclamation may be necessary. I think the best thing we can do at present is to advise the Government to keep the plague out of the colony by appointing a medical man to keep a strict watch on the people coming from Macao, and taking such measures as may be necessary to isolate or to keep in order such people who had, in the opinion of a medical man, contracted the disease. If the motion proposed by Mr. Francis covered the whole of the ground I think there would be no two opinions that we should support it at once. But I think we should advise the Government to take measures to watch immigration, and also to take measures to prevent the outbreak amongst us here.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORK—I think the Sanitary Board recommended the Government to prevent immigration from Macao and Hoihow.

Mr. FRANCIS said that the Government replied to the Permanent Committee that it was not intended to apply quarantine in reference to Hoihow or Macao. The subject of immigration was impracticable. It was a totally different question altogether, and passengers could easily get to Hongkong without being examined by proceeding to other ports, and the delay would be very short indeed. The whole of the ground was covered in his resolution, as when the Board was once vested with the powers contained in sections 32 and 37, it could make such by-laws as would deal effectively with immigration of Chinese into the colony, and would enforce the examination of all persons coming into the colony. He thought that the Board ought to have the necessary executive powers to do what the Committee did last year, and suggested that the Government should be asked to put in force these Sections of the Ordinance, and thus the direct and immediate responsibility of saying who was to provide for the carrying out of the by-laws in case of plague would be thrown upon the Government. At present it was not known who was to put into execution the by-laws if the disease made its appearance in the colony.

Mr. Francis's resolution was then put and carried.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that about a week

ago the members of the Board, with the exception of Mr. Francis, advised that some stringent measures should be taken to prevent immigration from Macao, and a letter was addressed to the Government on the subject. No reply had yet been received. He (the Vice-President) held to the view he had always expressed if the plague came to this colony—the only safe guard is to stop Chinese who are likely to bring the plague from coming to Hongkong. They had heard a good deal of what was done at home. But Hongkong was not London. The circumstances varied considerably, and he was perfectly convinced that if one got 30 or 40 or even only 10 cases of plague introduced in this colony there would be as severe an epidemic as there was last year. Therefore he begged to move that the Board again urge the Government to take steps, or if they like to authorise the Board to take steps to prevent the spread of the disease by enforcing the sections of the Ordinance Mr. Francis had referred to, and preventing the immigration of Chinese from Macao and other ports. The stoppage of immigration from those places would not be really so difficult as would at first sight appear.

Mr. FRANCIS seconded the resolution. He thought that the best measures for keeping the plague out of the colony was to keep persons out of Hongkong who came from places where the plague existed. Simply to prohibit immigration from Macao would be inadvisable, because the people could simply slip down to other ports. In reference to Canton and Hoihow the strict examination of every person coming here, and the isolation of every person who was suspected of having plague, would do more to frighten the Chinese than any Ordinance stopping immigration.

Dr. HARTIGAN—We have a report that certain girls have come into this colony from an infected house or room. We have no means of keeping them away, and the only thing to do is to stop immigration. Some people would slip through, but here is a case. Chinese are affected and yet we have no means of dealing with the cases.

Mr. FRANCIS said the serious difficulty was they did not know who was authorised to take action. The Board had no power at the present moment to do anything, because sections of the Ordinance are not in force.

The Vice-President's resolution was carried. On the motion of Dr. HO KAI the following resolution was then carried—That in addition to the prevention of immigration of Chinese from Macao, a strict medical examination of passengers coming into this colony from Canton and all places south and south-west of this colony be instituted and maintained.

It was intimated that the resolutions would be sent to the Government without delay.

THE PLAGUE.

PROHIBITION OF IMMIGRATION FROM MACAO AND HAINAN.

A Gazette Extraordinary was issued on Tuesday containing the following proclamation:—

By His Excellency Sir William Robinson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

Whereas by section 1 of Ordinance No. 5 of 1895, entitled an Ordinance to enable the Governor in Council to restrict the immigration of Chinese into the colony and for other purposes in connection therewith, it is enacted as follows:—

"Whenever the Governor in Council shall be satisfied that the bubonic plague, cholera, small-pox, or such other disease, as may from time to time be notified in the Gazette, is prevalent or exists in any other port or place, and that there is danger of the introduction of the same into the colony unless measures are taken to prevent the influx of Chinese, the Governor in Council may from time to time by proclamation under his hand, published in the Gazette, prohibit or regulate the immigration or importation into the colony of any Chinese from any such port or place for such time as he shall think fit, and may from time to time by notification in the Gazette renew or revoke such proclamation."

And whereas the Governor in Council is satisfied that the bubonic plague is at present prevalent in the neighbouring colony of Macao and in the island of Hainan, and that there is danger of the introduction of the same into this colony unless measures are taken to prevent the influx of Chinese from the said colony of Macao and the said island of Hainan,

Now, therefore, I, Sir William Robinson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, in pursuance of the powers vested in me in Council by the said section, do by this proclamation under my hand in Council prohibit from this date and until further notice the immigration or importation into this colony of all Chinese from the said port of Macao and the said island of Hainan.—By His Excellency's Command,

J. G. T. BUCKLE,

Acting Clerk of Councils.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Given at the Council Chamber, Victoria, Hongkong, this 23rd day of April, 1895.

THE SANITARY BOARD AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The following letter by the Chamber of Commerce to the Government and the reply of the Colonial Secretary are published as an appendix to the annual report to the Chamber's Committee:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 19th October, 1894.

Sir,—The Committee of this Chamber, in their capacity as representatives of the commercial interests of this colony, deem it their duty as well as their privilege to address to your Excellency some observations on the recent terrible visitation of disease, which had such alarmingly fatal results, and which for some months so extensively disorganized the normal trade of the port.

The Committee gladly recognize the promptitude and the energy with which the Government, when the presence of the epidemic had once been fully demonstrated, set to work to repress the outbreak, and gratefully acknowledge the devotion and self-sacrifice of the Military, Navy, and Volunteers, who lent their valuable aid in this important work. It is with no little satisfaction the Committee express their belief that these gallant efforts have at length been crowned with a complete success in stamping out the plague, which they sincerely hope may not appear again.

In view, however, of the lamentable loss of life, the utter derangement of the business of the port, involving enormous loss and inconvenience to those engaged therein, and the serious setback to the prosperity of the colony not yet recovered from the severe financial blows dealt it by the dislocation of exchange, and the long period of depression following the unsound speculative policy of a few years ago, it now becomes important to enquire how far this last and crowning disaster was due to preventable causes, and, if so, to whom should be apportioned the blame and the responsibility.

In embarking on such an enquiry the Committee are actuated by a desire to bring to your Excellency's notice and attention some facts and suggestions thereon that may serve to prevent the perpetuation of a faulty and prefunctory system, repetition of past errors or possible perseverance in a policy of "drift" and procrastination.

The fact that the sanitation of the city of Victoria was far from satisfactory was officially recognized some fifteen years ago. It is only just to say that, long prior to such recognition, attention had been earnestly called by the Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Ayres, to the ever-increasing saturation of the soil by sewage, owing to bad drainage, and he predicted the calamity which has now taken place, if the evil were not abated. It was not, however, until 1881 that the official recognition of the impending danger took any concrete form, when Mr. Osbert Chadwick was commissioned to make a report on the sanitation of the colony, and in the following year the conclusions of this expert were given to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in some exhaustive reports. Lord Kimberley, when forwarding these reports early in 1885 to the

Officer Administering the Government (Hon. W. H. Marsh), remarked in the fourth paragraph of his covering despatch:—

"What appears to me to be most urgent is that immediate steps should be taken to organize and enforce a thorough house to house and street to street service for the removal of night-soil, garbage, ashes, house sweepings, and rubbish of every sort."

Soon after the receipt of Mr. Chadwick's reports Mr. Marsh appointed a permanent Sanitary Board "to supervise and control the practical sanitation of the colony." The Board consisted of the Surveyor-General, the Registrar-General, and the Colonial Surgeon, with a sanitary inspector and staff. Three months later a Bill entitled "The Order and Cleanliness Amendment Ordinance" was passed by the Legislative Council. Section 2 of this Ordinance empowered the Governor to constitute a permanent Sanitary Board, consisting of the official members above named, and two other unofficial members to be appointed by the Governor. Section 3 gave powers to such Sanitary Board to abate overcrowding or filth, while section 4 conferred on the Board authority to enter and inspect houses. In 1886 Mr. A. P. MacEwen and Dr. P. Manson were appointed by the Governor the first unofficial members of the Sanitary Board. The meetings of the Board as then constituted were held in private, and little was known of their work and progress, but it is certain they were usefully employed, and made recommendations concerning the Public Health Ordinance, which was read a first time in the Legislative Council on the 6th May, 1887. This highly important and greatly needed enactment, which after a long discussion was duly passed, sent to the Secretary of State and approved by Her Majesty, contains all the powers necessary to secure the proper sanitation of the colony. By it the Sanitary Board is authorized to make bye-laws respecting—

- (a) Proper construction, trapping, ventilating and maintaining of private house drains.
- (b) Cleansing, lime washing, and proper sanitary maintenance of all premises in the colony.
- (c) Closing of premises unfit for human habitation and the prohibition of their use as such.
- (d) Prevention of overcrowding in premises, &c. Nuisance.
- (e) Defective drains, want of light and ventilation, and accumulation of house refuse, dirt, or any unwholesome matter.
- (f) Any act, omission, or thing which is or may be dangerous to life or injurious to health or property.

The Board may authorize any officer to enter and inspect premises on reasonable presumption of the existence of a nuisance after lapse of six hours from giving notice to occupier.

If nuisance is not abated proviso is made for punishment by Magistrate

Drains.—The Board may require reconstruction of defective house drains and may inspect premises if they believe drains to be defective.

Overcrowding.—Less than 300 cubic feet of clear internal space for each adult shall be considered a nuisance, and proceedings for its abatement be taken.

In order the better to give effect to the Public Health Ordinance, the Governor (Sir G. William Des Voeux) reconstituted the Sanitary Board, materially increasing the unofficial element, and giving the ratepayers the privilege of electing two gentlemen as their own immediate representatives. Unofficial members appointed and elected on the 11th June, 1888, were as follows:—

Messrs. Wong Shing, J. Cantlie, N. J. Ede, Ho Kai, (appointed) J. J. Francis, J. D. Humphreys (elected.)

On the reconstruction of the Board it was provided that its meetings should be held in public, and the proceedings have accordingly been regularly reported in the press.

From what is above stated it will be apparent that the newly formed Sanitary Board was armed with very ample powers, and that it entered upon its period of office with the full knowledge of the urgent importance of effectively scavenging the city. Although this was the case it would seem that this department of the Board's work was never performed in the thorough manner which was absolutely necessary, for the state of Taipingshan at the outbreak of the plague, so far as the accumulation of garbage and filth

is concerned, could not have marked an improvement on the condition described by Mr. Chadwick in 1881.

The much needed bye-laws for regulating the sanitary condition of common lodging houses were not made by the Board until 1891, and when these were approved by the Legislative Council in May of that year, the date of their coming into operation was, at the instance of the Board, deferred to the following year. It is alleged that representations on behalf of the Chinese in opposition to the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance against overcrowding and the possible interference with trade which would be caused by more active interference on their part, mainly influenced both the Board and the Government in this postponement of the operation of the bye-laws in question. Nor, on the expiration of the stipulated period of suspension, was the Board found less averse to the assumption of the responsibility of delaying the enforcement of its own regulations against overcrowding, for at its request the date of the operation of these bye-laws was again deferred by the Legislative Council. With what result this policy has been attended your Excellency is, unhappily, only too well acquainted. The responsibility for this failure to carry out one of the most essential requirements of the Public Health Ordinance seems to be divided between the Sanitary Board and the Government.

The legislative steps would seem to have been wisely taken, but they were allowed to fall into abeyance by a lack of prompt administrative and subordinate action.

It has generally been understood, and there is good reason for believing the statement, that the Sanitary Board has been well served by its inspectors, who have not failed to report upon the insanitary condition of the city, and therefore the Committee do not wish it to be supposed that they imply any censure of these inspectors. Indeed, it has been frequently stated—and the Committee pray your Excellency to investigate the statement—that the Sanitary Board had numerous reports and complaints in reference to sanitary matters. In the interests of the public this allegation should, in the opinion of the Chamber, be thoroughly sifted, and information be afforded to the public as to what action was taken by the Board in each case brought to its notice.

With regard to the drainage of the city there is a widespread belief—but the Chamber has no means of verifying it—that the scheme, as drawn up by Mr. Osbert Chadwick, endorsed by Mr. J. M. Price, the late Surveyor-General, and approved by the Government, has not been carried out on the original lines, and that the separate system has been more generally applied than was intended; upon this point it is desirable that the public should be thoroughly enlightened. In December, 1890, the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, in a memorandum regarding the estimates for Public Works Extraordinary for 1891, sounded a note of warning on this subject to the following effect:—

"We do not feel satisfied that the enormous expenditure of \$282,500, already voted, on the sewerage of Victoria was a desirable one to incur, but as the work has been commenced and has therefore to be gone on with, we do not disapprove of the decision of Government to sanction and carry out Mr. Osbert Chadwick's proposals and plans, but we are now of opinion that it would have been better when such decision was approved of by the Council that it should have been arrived at in such a manner as would have guarded against any possibility of any changes in and departures from these plans by a change of officers."

In the opinion of the Committee, before adopting the separate system of drainage for the Chinese town, the views of experienced resident engineers, familiar with the habits of the Chinese, ought to have been ascertained. It is a very debatable question whether the system can be satisfactorily availed of for the densely packed districts of the native town, and however excellent it may be in a European, it is, at least, open to serious doubt whether it is safely applicable to a Chinese city.

Having regard to the foregoing the Committee of this Chamber are unhesitatingly of opinion that, whilst it is almost certain the plague was introduced from the neighbouring province, it was only in consequence of the

insanitary condition of this City that it was able to germinate and to become an unparalleled disaster, and that, therefore, it was due to preventable causes. The neglect of all effective sanitary measures throughout a period of years, and in the face of continuous and repeated protest, makes it abundantly manifest that there has been no effective administrative sanitary system in this colony.

The Committee's excuse for addressing your Excellency at such length is the vast importance of the subject.—I have, &c.,

J. J. KESWICK, Chairman.

To His Excellency Sir William Robinson K.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Hongkong, 24th October, 1894.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, and in reply to inform you that the matter of the constitution of the Sanitary Board is under the consideration of the Government.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable J. J. Keswick, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, &c., &c., &c.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FIRE BRIGADE FOR 1894.

The following report was laid before the Legislative Council on the 17th inst.:—

Fire Brigade Department,

Hongkong, 11th March, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward the annual return of fires and alarms for the year 1894.

Although the return shows a slight decline on that for 1893, the fires for the most part present the same characteristics as were pointed out in my report for that year.

In the spring the Brigade was seriously embarrassed in its operations by the supply of fresh water becoming intermittent and almost entirely ceasing, and the comparatively large conflagration that occurred in the month of March in Bonham Strand owed its spread directly to this cause.

It is true that arrangements are made by which water can be turned on upon an alarm of fire occurring, but a good deal of time is lost in carrying them out, and a fire is able to make headway before it can be properly tackled, and in a crowded colony such as this is, with its narrow and steep streets, delay might easily result in very serious consequences.

I have always been of opinion that the completion of the Tytam water works would admit of the introduction of radical changes in the composition of the Fire Brigade, and time has shown that if the water supply were only constant it would be unnecessary to keep any steam engines other than the floating engine. The pressure of water in the streets is excellent, and cannot be exceeded by the results of the best steam engine. The street hydrants are numerous and well placed, and with the gradual increase of the number of fire despatch boxes it ought to be possible to keep within moderate limits at very small expense any fire taking place in the limits of Victoria. It is, however, a *sine qua non* of the proper treatment of fires that the water must be unstinted; and so long as it is necessary to hamper the Brigade in its use and at times to cut it off altogether, so long must the steam engines be maintained with their complement of drivers, stokers, and officers.

At the present time, moreover, there is a particular danger in curtailing the fresh water supply, as owing to the Praya Reclamation works, it may at any time be impossible to obtain water from the sea in particular places. It is, therefore, with the greatest anxiety that one learns of an order diminishing the supply of fresh water, and it will be an immense relief to me when the supply is made adequate for all purposes.

I have the honour to give a list of the places where the fire despatch boxes are now located, and in conclusion to report that the officers and men have throughout the year given every assistance in the suppression of fires.

I attach copy of Mr. Kinghorn's report on the state of the engines.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

H. E. WODEHOUSE,

Superintendent, Fire Brigade.

The Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Acting Colonial Secretary.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL BARKER'S FAREWELL TO THE GARRISON.

THE FINAL REVIEW.

The immense throng of ladies and gentlemen who assembled at the Happy Valley on Friday afternoon testified, in the highest possible degree, to the deserved popularity of Lieutenant-General Digby Barker, and to the high opinion formed of the very efficient men who have now lost his command. It was a magnificent spectacle that was witnessed, and one which will certainly live long in the memories of those who were fortunate enough to witness this grand review. Altogether there were about 2,600 officers and men on the field, and it can well be imagined that the scene was a most imposing one. Bordered by a small band of soldiers parading the streets is attractive enough, but how much more attractive is a huge assemblage of nearly three thousand bright uniformed men, and how proud the men themselves must have felt to have seen such a large gathering, which included his Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., Admiral Fremantle, and Mrs. and Miss Barker, to watch the progress of their well executed manoeuvres, and the final leave taking—strictly military leave taking—of the General. The grand stand and the enclosure were specially set apart for favoured visitors, among whom were, of course, many handsomely attired ladies, who lent a very charming effect to the scene. Some time before the commencement of the proceedings the various corps had taken up their positions on the ground. The saluting point was in the centre of the top end of the field, and at the other side, on the extreme left, was the Artillery Brigade under Major Botfield. The Brigade was composed of the Royal Artillery, under Major Magrath, the Hongkong Royal Artillery, under Captain Simmonds, the Royal Engineers, and the Field Battery and Maxim Gun Company of the Hongkong Volunteers under Major Pemberton. Then came the Infantry Brigade, commanded by Colonel Barrow, and consisting of the Hongkong Regiment, under Captain Retallick, and the Rifle Brigade under Major the Hon. E. Noel. The General having taken up his position at the saluting point, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel O'Gorman, Colonel Mulloy, Captain Murray, A.D.C., and Captain Thomas, the review commenced. There were two marches past, first each company marching independently of the others, and then marching in battalions, the whole of the companies were then reformed, advanced in review order, halted, and presented arms. The movements were carried out without the slightest hitch, and were diversified by one very pleasing ceremony on the part of the General. His Excellency presented Royal Humane Society's medals to Privates Makin and Miller, A.M.S., just before the advance in review order. The medals were given for the gallant rescue of a comrade who fell through one of the stern ports of the hospital ship *Meanees*, and while a strong ebb tide was running. In making the presentation

Lieut.-General Barker said—I have very great pleasure in presenting to you these honourable marks of distinction, and in order to carry out the instructions of His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief that the presentation should be made in as public a manner as possible, I have delayed giving them to you until I could do so before the whole garrison. Your gallantry, which has been so appropriately recognised by the Royal Humane Society, is most creditable to yourselves, and as the Divisional General has said, throws a lustre upon the Corps to which you belong and the army at large. There is little doubt that the soldier you rescued owes his life entirely to your prompt bravery and it will ever be a matter of satisfaction to me that my very last act in my command here was to take part in doing you honour. I hope you will live long to wear those honourable distinctions, and that they will stimulate others to like heroism.

In finally addressing the commanding officers the General said—Gentlemen, I have called you together first to express my satisfaction with the appearance of the troops, and the manner in which they have been handled to-day, and secondly, to bid you all an official farewell on vacating this command. In doing so I wish to thank you all for the hearty support which I have invariably received from you, and through

you I wish to thank the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, for the good discipline and conduct which have prevailed, and which has tended to make my command a pleasure. I have no doubt that General Black will be in command in the morning, and this will be my last official act. I wish you all far ewell.

PERFORMANCE OF "THE MAGISTRATE" BY THE A.D.C.

On Wednesday, 17th inst., the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club played Pinero's farce "The Magistrate" at the Theatre Royal. The colony appears at present to be richer in dramatic talent than it has been for a good many years past, and Wednesday evening's performance recalled the palmy days of the A.D.C. From beginning to end there was not a dull moment and the audience was kept in a state of laughter almost throughout. The audience was not quite so large as might have been expected, but on Saturday, when the performance was repeated, the house was crowded in every part. Amongst those present on Wednesday were H.E. Lieut-General and Mrs. Barker and H.E. Vice-Admiral Fremantle.

For the benefit of those who have not seen this popular farce we may say the plot turns on Mrs. Posket, who has a son by her first marriage, having deceived her husband as to her age and represented her child as being fourteen instead of nineteen. Cis Farrington, the son, is precocious even for nineteen, but is treated as a child and has a music governess, to whom he makes love. Mr. Posket, the Magistrate of the Mulberry Street Police Court, is taken out one evening by his hopeful step-son for a little enjoyment and they sup at the Hotel des Princes. It so happens that a Colonel Lukyn, who is an old friend of Mr. Posket, as well as of Mrs. Posket, has just returned from India. Colonel Lukyn was godfather to young Farrington and consequently acquainted with his real age. Mrs. Posket therefore thinks it necessary to obtain a private interview with him to ask him not to mention dates to her husband. With her sister Charlotte she sets out to find him at his apartments and follows him to the Hotel des Princes, where he and Captain Horace Vale are about to sit down to supper in an adjoining room to that occupied by Mr. Posket and Cis Farrington. The party remains after closing hour, the police enter the house, there is an unsuccessful attempt at concealment on the part of the guests, Mr. Posket and Cis Farrington manage to make their escape through a skylight, but the rest of the party are arrested and are brought before Mr. Posket's court next morning, and the Magistrate, distracted with the turn affairs have taken, adopts the words put into his mouth by his clerk, and sentences them all, his wife included, to seven days' imprisonment. The scene in court is not represented, but what goes on is conveyed to the audience by the action in the Magistrates' room. Mr. Posket himself is suffering severely from the results of his previous night's experience and after this the first case of the day is disposed of he has to retire from the court, being too ill to continue business. His place on the bench is taken by his brother Magistrate, Mr. Bullamy, who reopens the hotel case and releases the prisoners on a remand, to give them the opportunity of showing that they were the guests of Cis Farrington, who, it appeared, had hired a room at the hotel permanently and was therefore entitled to entertain his friends, even after closing hours. The party return to Mr. Posket's residence, explanations are made, Cis Farrington learns his real age and declares his intention of marrying his music governess, a declaration which meets with the hearty approval of Mr. Posket, who promises to give the young couple a cheque for a thousand pounds when they leave for Canada, being glad to get rid at any price of the youth who had led him astray.

The principal characters are Mr. Posket (Mr. C. H. Grace) and Cis Farrington (Mr. G. G. Brady), and both were capitally sustained. Mr. Grace's make-up was excellent, so much so that except for his voice it would have been almost impossible to recognise him, and his acting throughout was good, alike in the earlier scenes when he was the complacent, self-satisfied, and well-to-

do man, and later on when overcome by agitation at the very painful predicament in which he found himself. Of Mr. Brady's impersonation of Cis Farrington we cannot speak too highly. It might have been thought that Mr. Brady would have been inclined to give rather too broad a reading of a part of this kind, but any fears of that sort were speedily dispelled, and Mr. Brady once more proved himself a born actor. His conception of the character was at once refined and irresistibly funny, and he kept the audience laughing all the time he was on the stage. Mr. S. L. Darby is always a success in old man's parts, and as Mr. Bullamy he contributed in no small degree to the success of Wednesday evening's performance. The part of Colonel Lukyn was taken by Mr. J. H. Thresher, R.B., who gave a good account of it, though a little unfortunate in his make-up. Surgeon-Major Westcott appeared as Captain Horace Vale, but did not display much of the genius of an actor. Mr. J. D. Lapraik as *Achille Blond*, Proprietor of the Hotel des Princes, and Mr. A. H. Brabazon, R.M.L.I., as *Isidore*, the waiter, were both fairly good, especially the latter, Mr. G. Balloch also did very well in the part of Mr. Wormington, chief clerk at Mulberry Street Police Court. The Metropolitan Police were represented by Mr. H. C. Nicolle (*Inspector Messiter*), Mr. J. Andrew (*Sergeant Lugg*), and Captain A. P. Welman (*Constable Harris*). Mr. Andrew had more opportunities than his fellow officers and he took full advantage of them, displaying a good fund of humour. Mr. W. S. Frowd, R.N., appeared to advantage as *Wyke*, Mr. Posket's servant. The principal female character, that of Mrs. Posket, was taken by Mrs. Alfred Wrottesley, who gave a very good and spirited interpretation of it. Mrs. J. Andrew, as *Charlotte*, was graceful and natural in her acting, but unfortunately her enunciation was so indistinct that most of her lines were lost to the audience. The part of *Beattie Tomlinson*, the music governess, was taken by Mrs. Welman, but not with very great success. Mrs. Moore, as *Popham*, the maid, looked charming and in what little she had to do acted well. The play is not one, it may be remarked, in which the female characters have very large opportunities, the interest centering in the two leading male characters, Mr. Posket and Cis Farrington. The applause was very hearty throughout the evening and the curtain had to be raised again on the final tableau. As the audience left the Theatre expressions of approval were heard on all hands and the A. D. C. may congratulate itself on having scored a complete success. Mr. E. W. Mitchell was the stage manager and, needless to say, the duties of that important office were very efficiently discharged. The committee was composed of Messrs G. A. Caldwell, C. H. Grace, E. W. Mitchell, H. C. Nicolle, J. Orange, G. G. Brady, hon. treasurer, and Captain A. W. Miller, R.N. hon. secretary.

By kind permission of Major the Hon. E. Noel and officers, the Band of the Rifle Brigade was present and played the following:—

Overture... "Il Barbiere de Seviglia" Rossini.
Selection... "Little Christopher Columbus" Caryll.
Valse "Louisiana" Squire.

TRIAL TRIP OF THE SPANISH GUNBOAT "QUIROS."

The composite gunboat *Quiros*, which has been built and engined by the Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., Limited, to the order of the Spanish Government for special service in the Philippines, went out on an official trial on Tuesday. The vessel was fully described in our issue of the 25th January, when she was launched.

There was a large party of Spanish officers on board on Tuesday, consisting of the Consul and Vice-Consul, Senor Don L. De Castro, the Commission, the Captain and officers of the vessel, and several others: also Mr. D. Gillies and Mr. R. Cooke and several of the staff of the Dock Company.

The conditions of the contract were more than fulfilled; the mean speed of four runs over a two knots' distance was 12 knots with 480 indicated horse power. To test her range of action the coal was carefully measured for three hours, giving a result of 44 tons for 24 hours at 9½ knots; the bunker capacity being 75 tons, this consumption gives the vessel a range of 3,775 knots. Unfortunately the weather was

unfavourable for testing her sailing capabilities, as it was practically dead calm. She carries, however, about 3,000 square ft. of sail area, which, with a steady breeze, will give about 4 knots speed. After luncheon Mr. Gillies in a few well-chosen words proposed success to the *Quiros* and had no doubt but that her officers would find her a very suitable vessel and well fitted for the duties she may have to perform.

Captain Vasquez, Chief of the Commission who have superintended the construction of the vessel, replied and thanked Mr. Gillies and the staff for having turned out such a very satisfactory little vessel. She was finished in a most excellent manner and after a careful heeling experiment in her finished condition he found her metacentric height slightly more than was specified, thus insuring more stability and better ability to make use of her sails. He expressed himself highly pleased with the results of the day's trial in all respects and he hoped that the Dock Company would be favoured with orders for several other vessels which the Spanish Government intended building.

The *Quiros* will leave for Manila in a few days and will accompany the transport *Manila*, which takes over the gunboats for service on the lakes in Mindanao.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

On Friday afternoon the annual general meeting of the members of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, was held at the City Hall. The Hon. J. J. Keswick presided. Amongst those present were:—Hon. A. McConachie, Messrs. E. Mackintosh, R. M. Gray, T. Jackson, St. C. Michaelsen, N. A. Siebs, Douglas Jones (Committee), F. Henderson (Secretary), D. Gillies, A. Tillett, F. Sharp, A. Shelton Hooper, D. E. Brown, J. Y. V. Vernon, Stollerfoht, Ho Tung, G. Stewart, J. J. Bell-Irving, G. H. Wheeler, A. Coxon, Alf. Woolley, D. R. Sassoon, A. F. Smith, C. A. Tomes, R. Shewan, J. Kramer, Garrels, Ezekiel, Byramjee, David, Pestonjee, Wy Shing, Ho Tung, Lai Hing, Kotawal, Ming Kee, and others.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—The first business of the meeting is to confirm the minutes of meetings held on the 11th May and 6th June, when we elected Mr. McConachie as member of the Chamber in the Legislative Council. If you will permit me, we will consider these minutes as read.

Minutes confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business is to confirm the election of Messrs. A. H. Rennie, Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Limited, G. H. Wheeler (Attorney, Standard Oil Co., of New York), Bradley and Co., Shewan and Co., the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, and Lants, Wegener and Co. I propose that the election of these gentlemen be confirmed.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the report which your Committee have to-day to submit to you will, I trust, bear evidence that during the year we have not been unmindful of those commercial and cognate interests which it is the province of the Chamber to keep in view. The year 1894 was one of the most eventful in the history of the East, and in Hongkong it had the distinction of witnessing the introduction of plague in our midst, a disaster which taxed all the energies of Government and the Sanitary authorities to suppress it. Happily it was overcome and the trade of the port and the inhabitants seemed to return as if by magic, and at the moment there is evidence of increase in both. Let us hope that the lesson will be laid to heart and that in future if pestilence visits this Island it will find no congenial abode. Your Committee deemed it desirable to review in a letter which you will read in the appendix, and which I hope will be regarded as a useful and a temperate letter, the sanitary history of the colony, and I hope and believe it will be considered a fair statement of the past condition of sanitary affairs and be of some service and of public interest. As will be seen from the report, this Chamber had occasion to criticise the quarantine regulations of a neighbouring colony, not from any desire on our part to minimise the importance of effective quarantine, but to prevent precautions which only aggravate the situation. The small Republic of Shanghai

set an example of enlightened efficient quarantine arrangements which reflects credit upon it, and it was in consequence possible for our intercourse with that port to be maintained without more than absolutely essential restrictions. You will remember that last year I made reference to the exclusion which the Chinese sought to impose on the importation of machinery for manufacturing purposes into China, and I then ventured to say that no effort on the part of China in that direction could be sustained once it was seriously challenged. The right to exclude machinery has been challenged, and you may take it for granted that Treaty privileges in this matter will be fully vindicated. Within the last 48 hours it would seem probable that the new Treaty of Peace with Japan has definitely disposed of this question and also of the long-sustained likin grievance. A reference to the Appendix I., page 25, will show you that the Chamber has had some correspondence with regard to the proposed compulsory use of an official code vocabulary in telegraph messages, and although the vocabulary will not be applicable to messages outside of Europe, until 1898, still the Chamber deemed it desirable to record its protest, and other Chambers have done likewise. An International Conference at Rome, held in December, 1893, recommended the adoption of such a code, and I fear there may be little chance of preventing its compulsory use, but every effort should be made in this direction, as the costly codes of banks and firms in the East will perchance be rendered valueless. The correspondence on this question is worth your attentive perusal. As you are aware this Chamber has always taken great interest in the lighting of the port, and I should not pass over without notice the suggested reconstruction of the Gap Rock Lighthouse consequent upon the injury sustained by it in the typhoon of October, 1893. The correspondence which is appended shows the recommendations which have been made, but with which your Committee have not felt themselves able to concur without further opinion. There seem to be no structural defects, and your Committee consider that before taking any such costly step it would be desirable to have the opinion of one of the Lighthouse engineers of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, whose services could doubtless be secured. It must be borne in mind that since 1893 the Lighthouse has experienced the full force of an even more severe typhoon than that in October of that year, and it seems undesirable to incur such a huge expenditure unless absolutely unavoidable. Your Committee does not consider it unavoidable, and have confidence that His Excellency the Governor will accord the representations of the Chamber his usual courteous consideration. We have had no correspondence of an official nature concerning the West River, but as you know, the Foreign Office, in acknowledging the Chamber's letter on the subject, intimated that the British Minister at Peking would receive instructions on the matter, and it is to be hoped that we may soon hear that Mr. O'Connor has been able to arrange for the opening of this fine water-way to foreign trade. The importance of direct steam navigation between Hongkong and its upper reaches can readily be conceived. I may here appropriately make reference to the war which has been waged between China and Japan since July last, and which everyone will rejoice to see now ended. While not withholding our generous word of sympathy for the vanquished, neither should we begrudge our meed of praise to the victors, by whose means we hope to see a regeneration in the administrative, social, fiscal, and commercial affairs of China, and a departure on the path of enlightenment and progress which cannot but increase tenfold the material well-being of her people. Both nations during the conflict have to their honour placed as few barriers as possible in the way of trade by neutrals, and commerce, though curtailed by a shaking of confidence among all classes, has on the whole been less adversely affected in many respects than might have been expected. The conditions of peace I need not here recount, but the acquisition of Formosa by Japan marks a political change near our borders of which the full significance will gradually dawn upon the Western nations. The opening of Peking and Nanking to trade is of great importance, and I hope that among the other places opened under Treaty may be ports on the West River, but if not, we must hope that through the British Legation this will be accomplished. You

will observe in the Chamber's correspondence reference to the Treaty entered into between Great Britain and Japan, which the Chamber only deals with in so far as the colony's interests are touched through its Refineries. Our astute Japanese friends, in negotiating the new tariff, had the advantage of knowing to one hair's breadth just what they wanted, and the result has been the imposition of a duty on refined sugar which, unless we get it altered, will adversely affect the importations from this colony. The question will doubtless further engage the attention of the new Committee. And now, gentlemen, I have almost exhausted all that I have to say in reference to the report, but I must briefly allude to what seems to be universally called the "silver question." It engages attention in all countries, but thus far it cannot be asserted that any person, or league, or committee, have been able to persuade the world that a solution has been found. Let us hope that a solution soon will be found—as found it must be sooner or later—for no one will contend that we can do without silver as a monetary medium. The fact remains that two-thirds of the world's population count their wealth in silver and use silver as their only medium of exchange, and it cannot be expected that gold can ever take its place. The uncertainty surrounding the value of silver is more mischievous than the lowness of its price in relation to gold, because the continual fluctuations in its quotations render the ordinary conduct of business hazardous. I think I may congratulate the members on the Chamber's share in the recommendation of the coinage of a British dollar, which a special committee appointed by it were unanimously in favour of. At an early date we hope to have the coin circulating with us in Hongkong, where it is made the only legal tender, concurrently with the Mexican dollar. In conclusion, gentlemen, I want to say one word before resuming my seat on the subject of this Chamber itself, on which I wish you all, and the public at large, to cast a benevolent regard. The finances are not in such a flourishing state as I could wish. We have for some years been encroaching upon our capital, owing to a reduced revenue and slight increase of expenditure. The principal loss of revenue is in the sale of market reports, the altered conditions of business rendering such records less necessary than formerly. I believe our Shanghai friends have had the same experience, and I am not sure that they have not had to stop their market reports altogether. I think no one will question that this Chamber as an institution should be maintained, for it will not be denied that, as it has been useful in the past, so will it be in the future, and it will be easier to maintain it than to resuscitate it if once you permit it to collapse. I think an exceedingly moderate increase in the subscription would equalise income and expenditure. I think there is nothing further that I can usefully say, but it is satisfactory to see the conditions of trade here and in China gradually becoming more satisfactory, and there are not wanting indications that commerce everywhere is starting on a new era of prosperity throughout the world at large. (Applause). Before submitting to you for adoption the report and accounts I shall be glad to hear any remarks any gentleman may wish to make upon the year's operations of the Chamber. If there are no remarks, gentlemen, I beg to propose that the report of the Committee for 1894 and the accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—I beg to second that. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the next business is the election of the Committee for the ensuing year, and I will remind you that Mr. A. G. Wood and Mr. Whitehead are expected to be back in the course of this year.

The election of the Committee was then proceeded with by ballot, and the CHAIRMAN remarked—Gentlemen, it has been suggested to me that I ought to remind you that neither Mr. Mackintosh, the Vice-Chairman, nor I will be here during the ensuing year, and therefore we are not open to election.

Mr. D. GILLIES—I would ask if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected by this meeting, or does the Committee elect its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN—They are elected by the meeting.

The SECRETARY—Will you be good enough

to state when you mention the Committee the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Mr. BROWN—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, while the ballot is going on I should like to draw your attention to a matter I wish to bring before the meeting, and I think it is one of interest to the colony—to the shipping community at any rate. It is a question relating to the want of adequate facilities along the sea front for the numerous steam-launches required by the community in the transaction of the business of the colony between the ships and the shore. I do not want to detain you any longer, and I will now put this motion to the meeting in order to get an expression of opinion upon it:—"Inasmuch as the landing accommodation or wharf recently provided on the new reclamation is quite inadequate for the requirements of the colony, so many steam launches being necessary for the transaction of the business of the shipping community and others between ships and shore, and whereas it will soon be impossible to use Old Pedder's Wharf any longer as a landing place, greater inconvenience will be felt and the danger to small steam craft increased if more adequate landing accommodation be not provided. Be it resolved that the attention of the Government be called by this Chamber to the pressing need for increased landing facilities as near the vicinity of the Old Pedder's Wharf as circumstances will permit."

Mr. D. GILLIES—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion proposed by Mr. Brown, and I think the thanks of the shipping community are due to Mr. Brown for coming forward and bringing this motion to the notice of the Chamber. I think we have all more or less felt the inadequacy of the present accommodation for steam launches. It is not only the great want of accommodation, but there is really an absolute danger in using the present wharf, and I have many times been surprised that accidents have not occurred before this. The entrance is so very narrow and so many launches are obliged to use that wharf that it is really a wonder collisions have not taken place before this, and I think it would be better for us to make further provision in the way of a new wharf, or by extending the wharf already built in order that these collisions or dangers may be avoided in the future. I do not know in what way the Government could best supply the wants of the community in the way of increased accommodation, but I think it would be best accomplished by the Government putting up a new wharf. An extension of the wharf they have put up will not answer the requirements so well as a new wharf. The extension of the present wharf would only bring too many launches together and thereby incur the very danger we want to avoid. I would therefore suggest in any recommendation the Committee may make to the Government that a new wharf should be provided giving the accommodation we desire.

Mr. E. MACKINTOSH—I think Mr. Brown's resolution, seconded by Mr. Gillies, refers more particularly to wharves that may be constructed in the future than to the present accommodation. I would remind the Chamber that a Committee which was appointed by the Government, of which Committee I was a member, considered this subject of wharves about July or August of last year. The Committee made a report to the Government, but whether the Government will accept it or not I do not know. I may tell you that this Committee recommended that for ordinary accommodation along the Praya there should be one opposite each new street. But the Government have promised to the owners of private wharves that they will reinstate their particular wharves opposite the places where they are at present. Therefore, if that is carried out it appears to me that it will be almost impossible to grant the request you have preferred. This is a matter that rests entirely with the Government. The Government have had the recommendation of the Committee, but whether the Government will act upon it or not is another question.

Mr. BROWN—My motion refers to the present necessity for increased wharf accommodation. We will have to suffer a great deal before the final plans and arrangements the Government has made with the owners of the present wharves can be carried out; it is to bridge over the difficulty we are labouring under and until these arrangements are completed, that I ask the assistance of the Chamber to help us to get better

landing accommodation either temporary or permanent.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. JACKSON—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, there has been a short reference in the Chairman's speech to the British dollar. It is a very important item indeed in connection with the future commerce of this colony. I think it affords us an opportunity of placing the currency of the colony in a sound condition and doing away with this foolish system of chopping dollars. I believe the Government have been advised at home by experienced men that it would be impossible to do away with chopping the British dollars. I do not at all agree with the advice they have acted upon. From our point of view it is highly desirable that our currency should also be a legal tender in the Straits Settlements. The banks here have considerable interest in the banks in the Straits. If these dollars are chopped they cease to be current in the Straits. They are current in Hongkong, but not in the Straits. It is a great grievance and at the end of the 19th century we ought not to tolerate chopped currency. (Hear, hear). It would be in the interests of every single trader in this place, of every private individual, and of none more than the Chinese themselves, if the system were stopped altogether. This custom of chopping is a very ancient one, and I think the time has now come for it to be done away with. I would like, before this meeting separates, to have an expression of opinion that the Government should legislate that the British dollar should not be chopped and if it is chopped that it should not be the currency. (Hear, hear). We all know we had 7.17 to the dollar, one of the reasons being that the tael weight is pretty well the universal one all over China, but the chopped dollar is not accepted in Shanghai. Surely the Government would not come to the conclusion that the Shanghai custom would not apply here. The objection must arise that ten Mexican dollars are worth more by count than by weight. The weight of the Mexican dollar is a very irregular one. It is supposed to be 417 or 418 grains, whereas the weight of the British dollar is 416, so that there would be very little difference between ten British dollars paid out by count, and ten dollars in Mexicans weighed at 7.17. The loss in paying out British dollars by count instead of paying out chopped coin by weight would be very small, and would be acquiesced in by the Banks, as in no other way can the currency be placed upon a proper footing. (Applause).

Mr. SHARP—I am very glad that Mr. Jackson has said what he has. I had intended to say a word about chopping dollars, but I was very much afraid that anything which I might say might not be appreciated by Mr. Jackson, who is the Chief Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, because I can imagine that a bank might think that its interests were in some way identified with the chopping of dollars, for this reason, that they can chop as many coins as they please. I have known banks chop a hundred thousand coins, and go through a great deal of labour overnight before they are paid out in the morning, in order that the bank may secure a premium upon unchopped dollars which remained in their treasury. I am delighted to find that Mr. Jackson takes a clear view on this matter, and I think he bases his view upon the idea of bettering the general interests of the colony. There is no question whatever that the mutilation of our coins is against the interests of trade. Why should there always be a premium upon remittances to Singapore and Japan? For no earthly reason than that the coins with which we have to pay for those bills are at a discount. If you want to send a remittance to Singapore you have to send a proper remittance—a clean coin. I do not know whether people are really aware of the injury which is hereby inflicted, and I would like to direct your attention for a minute to a little anecdote which occurred more than thirty years ago. I sold an invoice of clean Mexican dollars for the Commercial Bank to the Agra Bank. It was then that the proportion of indifferent low touch coins, which had been habitually rejected by the banks' compradores for some years previously, had been greatly increasing—increasing year by year until it had become quite a formidable matter. On this occasion between six and seven hundred dollars were rejected by the compradores of the Agra Bank,

I asked what they were worth, and the reply was "Oh, these coins no good touch, have got tin inside; but maskee, 30 cents." Thirty cents was all the money that was offered for these 650 dollars. I was the intermediary employed in the transaction, and therefore was called upon to do my best to settle an arrangement. I went into another bank close by and said "Compradore, what are these dollars worth?" "Oh, very little touch" was the reply, "25 or 30 cents." I thought this was more unsatisfactory. I got into my little pony trap, and drove down to Messrs. Olyphant and Co., the American firm, whose business then was next door to the Commissariat Buildings. I went in and saw the managing partner, Mr. Parkin, and said to him, "Will you allow me to do a little business with your compradore?" He said "By all means." I said to the compradore, "There are these 650 Mexican dollars. They are at five per cent. premium. Please allow your shroff to look see." He called in his shroff, who shroffed these 650 Mexicans. He said "They are all good." I said "I think perhaps have got some pieces inside no b'long good; more better you call in another shroff." He then sent in next door for the shroff of Fletcher & Co. The shroff came in and carefully examined them a second time. He said "They are all good," but selected one coin, and said "This piece b'long old year, you more better go Lane Crawford buy one hat." (Laughter). I said "You can secure b'long number one." He said "Clean dollar just now b'long five per cent. premium." I said "Maskee, give me the notes." He gave me the notes, and I drove off to the bank, gave them to the manager, and said "For goodness sake don't say anything about these or else there will be a reclamation." Nothing was said about it. There was not a bad dollar amongst them. Both these men are now dead, but the compradores of the late firm of Olyphant and Co. is, I believe still living, and he will confirm my statement. The attempt of the Agra Bank compradore to put nearly 500 dollars into his pocket out of this bullion shipment was thus defeated, but this was only one case of a hundred. The chopping Mr. Jackson has referred to is supposed by some people to be needful. I venture to say that that is not so. The Chinese are in no way in favour of chopping dollars. Every Hong occasionally chops a thousand dollars as a sort of demonstration in order to be able to say "We always chop our coins, and if you want us to exchange a bad dollar you must show us our mark upon it." The practice is now fast going out, and you may now go into Bonham Strand and that district without hearing the chopping hammer being used. There is now very little of it, and I feel sure that if Mr. Jackson and other bankers were to adopt a plan of discouraging this method, we should have a clean currency, and save thereby four fifths of the trouble of shroffing. There is five times as much trouble in shroffing a thousand dollars which are chopped as there is in shroffing a thousand dollars which are clean. With chopped dollars you have to turn over both sides. I think, therefore, that this is, as Mr. Jackson has said, a good opportunity for putting our currency upon a fair basis, and that it should not be lost. I may say I have been waiting for this opportunity for forty years, and I am delighted that we have so powerful an advocate in the matter as Mr. Jackson. (Applause). Will you therefore allow me to propose this resolution. "That the Chamber regards the advent of the British dollar as an opportunity for placing the currency of this Colony upon a satisfactory footing, that as a first step every means should be adopted to protect the new coins from the foolish practice of chopping and defacement, and that the Government be requested by the Committee to legislate to that effect in this Colony." (Applause).

Mr. JACKSON—I beg to second Mr. Sharp's proposal.

Mr. SHARP—I could tell you a great deal more, but there is a review on, and I know you want to go there. (Laughter).

Mr. SHEWAN—I would like to enquire whether it would not be illegal to deface the new dollar, it being a British coin.

Mr. JACKSON—To meet the special—as they think at home—the special requirements of this colony, they have decided to allow it to be chopped and still remain a legal tender—the very thing we did not want. It will, as Mr. Sharp has said,

defeat the one opportunity we have had of putting all coin upon a proper basis.

The CHAIRMAN—Before I put the resolution I will announce the result of the ballot. The Committee elected will consist of Messrs. A. G. Wood (Chairman), A. McConachie (Vice-Chairman), T. Jackson, R. M. Gray, N. A. Siebs, St. C. Michaelsen, T. H. Whitehead, Douglas Jones, and J. J. Bell-Irving.

Mr. Sharp's resolution was then put to the meeting and carried.

Mr. SHARP—One word, Mr. Chairman, before you conclude the meeting. I do not think all of us appreciate the labour which is embraced between the two covers of that report. It is a very easy thing to go on smoothly when everything goes on smoothly and not to take much notice of the machinery by which everything is done. But if you will look through the subject matter of this report you will see that there is not a single matter which can be fairly classed as routine. They are special, peculiar, and most important, and I think, in reading the multiplicity of letters and correspondence which that report contains, one is struck with the amount of painstaking labour performed by our Committee during the past year. (Applause). I think, therefore, that we may very fairly record a vote of thanks to the Committee, to the Chairman, and to the Secretary for the labour which has been so successfully performed. (Applause).

The CHAIRMAN—On behalf of the Committee and the Secretary, I express our thanks to Mr. Sharp and the members present for his kind remarks. I should just like to say in reference to the resolution about the British dollar that the new Committee will no doubt have great pleasure in bringing the resolution at once to the notice of the Government. Gentlemen, that concludes the business of the meeting.

The following is the Committee's report submitted to the meeting:—

OUTBREAK OF BUBONIC PLAGUE IN HONGKONG.

During last summer the colony suffered from an outbreak of Bubonic Plague probably the most serious sickness of an epidemic nature with which Hongkong has been assailed since its occupation by the British. The disease, though known in Haiban and other parts of Southern China, had never before reached Hongkong, and the terror—which contact with the unfamiliar, particularly with regard to such a visitation, and among an ignorant people is apt to produce—led to a panic resulting in an exodus of the inhabitants to neighbouring places, of supposed greater safety, such as had not before been experienced here. Business was in a great measure interrupted both on account of the absence of a large portion of the population and the presence of the plague, and the loss to the colony was very serious. The disease was supposed to have been introduced from Canton, where it had made its appearance some time previously, and the insanitary condition of many of the districts in the city of Victoria afforded a very fitting nursery for its propagation, assisted by, perhaps, an abnormal condition of the atmosphere, the result, not unlikely, of a long continued drought. Whatever the circumstances were which favoured its growth the disease found an easy footing in our midst. It broke out in May (or earlier) and continued until September, when the Plague Proclamations of 10th May and 9th August were withdrawn by the Authorities. A band of volunteers—Naval, Military and Civil—did good service under, perhaps, not very encouraging circumstances, and with no great show of gratitude from those whom they desired to benefit, in attempting to ameliorate the condition of the sufferers. Owing to the large numbers who left the colony the exact mortality could not be ascertained, and though serious was perhaps less than might have been expected under the circumstances. The disease claimed few victims other than Chinese, but such immunity may not be again enjoyed should a recurrence of the plague take place and we are found unprepared. A report was recently made to the Sanitary Board that bubonic plague had appeared at Amoy, but, as will be seen from the accompanying correspondence, its existence there was denied.

QUARANTINE REGULATIONS IMPOSED IN SINGAPORE AGAINST HONGKONG.

What appeared to be the quite unnecessarily

severe nature of the quarantine regulations imposed against Hongkong during the prevalence of the plague was brought to the notice of the Government with the view that, should it unfortunately be again considered desirable to enforce such regulations, an endeavour should be made to induce the Straits Government to frame these with the strictest regard to the very large interest of both colonies which are so very adversely affected by such onerous restrictions. The Committee, while very fully sympathising with the desire of any community to guard against the introduction of dangerous disease, are inclined to think that the precautions taken are often the outcome—if not of panic—of at least over-hasty action, and are often entirely opposed to the opinions of experts who now generally contend that quarantine regulations formerly held to have been effective, and now abandoned in England, are calculated to promote rather than prevent the spread of disease whether of an infectious or contagious nature, and the Singapore Authorities seem to have erred in that direction. Holding the views that Government apparently does, it seems unlikely it will be inclined to entertain the suggestions made, but the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State who may perhaps be disposed to adopt broader views more consistent with what ought to be the common interest of two British Colonies.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE IMPORTATION OF MACHINERY INTO CHINA.

In reply to the Chamber's enquiries regarding the prohibitory notification, referred to last year, issued by the Commissioner of Customs, Shanghai, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Peking stated that the Doyen of the Corps Diplomatique had protested against the notification in question, and had informed the Chinese Government that the foreign representatives declined to recognize its validity as being opposed to the privileges accorded by the treaties, and that the question still formed the subject of correspondence between the Corps Diplomatique and the Tsung-li Yamén; adding that communications to the same effect had been addressed to Her Britannic Majesty's Consuls at the different treaty ports. The matter was brought up in the House of Commons on 26th June last by Sir G. Baden Powell, when a reply similar to the above statement was elicited.

INDIAN IMPORT DUTY ON SILVER.

The agitation started last year against a measure so calculated to still further complicate the silver question, which is so adversely affecting the trade between India, Hongkong and China has been widely, but ineffectually, maintained, and there are apparently no present indications that the Indian Government intends to abandon the position it has taken up.

THE COINAGE OF A BRITISH DOLLAR.

The Committee learned with satisfaction that the Home Authorities had decided to sanction the above coinage, the necessity for which has at different times throughout the year been keenly felt, emphasizing the advisability of not being dependent upon outside sources for any portion of our currency. A slight want of unanimity on the part of some of the mercantile community in Singapore may have caused a little delay, but it has been decided to begin coining at once. The dollar will be 416 grains in weight and of 900 millesimal fineness, corresponding with the Japanese yen, and will be constituted a legal tender in Hongkong and the Straits Settlements. It will be minted for the public at one per cent., in exchange for bullion.

SUNDAY CARGO-WORKING ORDINANCE.

The Chamber has had occasion to call the attention of the Government to an amendment in the Sunday Labour Ordinance which admits of all mail steamers (irrespective of nationality and to the detriment of British shipping), provided Hongkong is not the terminal port, to discharge and take in cargo without incurring the fees imposed by the Ordinance, pointing out that the remission of these fees is an unfair concession to mail steamers, enabling them to obtain quicker despatch and more successfully to compete against the less fortunate ordinary carriers unsubsidised and handicapped in addition to the extent of Sunday-working fees. The concession is believed to have been made unsolicited at the suggestion of the Post Office authorities, and was apparently unnecessary, as the mail steamers without acceleration of speed can easily deliver their mails well within contract time. Under the same Ordinance the Government recently

prosecuted the agents of the steamer *Hupch* for violation of the law by loading bunker coal on Sunday. The Magistrate decided that bunker coal was not cargo and dismissed the case—thus supporting a previous decision given in favour of the steamer *Whampoa*; adding—"I am of opinion the Ordinance overlooked the existence of bunker coal, or else never intended it to be regarded as cargo." A question referred to the Chamber as to whether or not ballast would be considered cargo under the Ordinance remains undecided, as in the particular case referred to, which would have been made a test one, the steamer arrived in time to ballast on Saturday. In connection with this the Harbour Master expressed an opinion that as ballast is not included in the clause exempting certain things from the provisions of the Ordinance, a permit would be necessary, to which a fee attaches according to the tonnage of the vessel.

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE TELEGRAPH COMPANIES AND THE CHAMBER.

The Chamber has had the opportunity during the past year of exchanging congratulations with the Telegraph Companies on the completion of the cable connecting Hongkong with Singapore via Borneo and Labuana, and also on the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the initiation of telegraphy with the Far East.

PREFERENTIAL DUTIES GRANTED BY THE HOPPO OF CANTON ON JUNK-CARRIED CARGO.

This vexed question has again cropped up on several occasions, beginning with a renewed complaint on the part of the River Steamboat Companies that these concessions were again being freely granted, with the result that the bulk of the season's tea had been diverted from their steamers into native junks. The difficulty of adducing positive proof that special allowances are made, a matter which Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Peking, who has taken a keen interest in the question, has made almost a *sine qua non*, still remains. Particulars of many instances in which these concessions have been granted are not difficult to obtain, but owing to the dread the Chinese have of their own officials, and the fear, however remote, of in any way compromising themselves by giving evidence in such a matter, renders it all but impossible to get these particulars substantiated. His Excellency the Governor has made himself fully acquainted with the question, and will, no doubt, use his influence to endeavour to bring about a reform. Our neighbours in Canton have approached the subject, but from a different point of view, contending that the granting of such duties is a positive benefit to the exporters of tea and other articles of produce. It may even be admitted that in some instances such benefits do accrue, but it cannot be gainsaid that these are obtained contrary to the terms of the treaties, and if a deviation from treaty obligations in one direction is allowed to pass unnoticed, similar departures in other directions would be sure to follow.

WAR BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN.

It was brought to the notice of the Government on the 7th August that though war had been declared between these two countries it had not been officially made known in the colony, and that business was being seriously interfered with owing to the uncertainty that prevailed as to what treatment neutral vessels and neutral interests might be expected to receive at the hands of the belligerents. In reply the Colonial Secretary stated that a telegram had that morning (9th August) been received from the Secretary of State, advising that the proclamation of neutrality and the rules connected therewith had been despatched by mail to the colony. These were ultimately promulgated in a *Gazette Extraordinary* published 8th September, and dealt chiefly with illegal enlistment, illegal ship-building, and illegal expeditions. The Government very courteously furnished the Chamber with a considerable mass of correspondence—attached hereto—giving information regarding the restrictions placed on neutrals, the measures adopted for the protection against attacks by sea, and other matters. The correspondence shows that Her Britannic Majesty's Government refused to treat rice as contraband of war; and that the Japanese would not consider the commodity generally known as "tea-lead" in that category provided it was destined to a port whence tea is ordinarily exported.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM CODE VOCABULARY.

The attention of the Chamber was called to a circular issued last year, without date, bearing the names of the Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Co., Ltd., and Great Northern Telegraph Co. intimating that an arrangement had been made at the Paris Conference of 1890 for the International Bureau at Berne to prepare an official code vocabulary, consisting of 200,000 words, the use of which was to become compulsory for all code messages exchanged between stations in the European system, after the expiration of three years from the date of its publication.

The proposed enforced use of a code, which would necessitate the abandonment of all those now in use, many of which have been compiled at a great expenditure of both time and money, was strongly opposed both at home and abroad, and it was hoped, as indicated in the annexed letter from the General Post Office London, as regards extra-European messages, at least, it had been finally settled that the use of the vocabulary would not be made compulsory. A subsequent communication from Mr. W. Grigor Taylor, General Manager, Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, to the Secretary of the Singapore Chamber, particulars of which are only just to hand, makes it now doubtful if these messages will be allowed the privilege of exemption from the proposed arbitrary rule. He is reported to have said—"No time has been fixed for the compulsory introduction of this code for extra-European telegrams. The matter will be fully discussed at the next meeting of the International Telegraph Convention to be held at Buda-Pesth in 1896. No reliable information can be given before then. The code is not compulsory for European telegrams until 1st January, 1898. It is suggested that, meanwhile, any protest the Chambers of Commerce may like to make on the subject should be forwarded to the International Telegraph Bureau at Berne in order that they may be laid before the Convention."

NEW TREATY BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND JAPAN.

The announcement made in July last that a new treaty between Great Britain and Japan, involving the surrender of extraterritorial privileges, and other equally important changes, had been entered into without reference to those most interested, was naturally received with surprise. In carrying out these negotiations the same indifference seems to have been manifested with regard to Colonial interests, as in dealing with the sugar duties, the change in which will have a very material effect on sugar-refining, the largest industry in Hongkong, the local Government were, apparently, not advised of the impending changes in the Japanese tariff, and were not communicated with as to the probable effect these alterations would have on the trade of the colony. The Chamber's correspondence on the subject, so far as it has gone, has been forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for transmission to the Foreign Office.

INSANITARY CONDITION OF HONGKONG.

The past and present condition of Hongkong from a sanitary standpoint is reviewed at considerable length in the accompanying letter.

SUGGESTED RECONSTRUCTION OF THE GAP ROCK LIGHTHOUSE.

The Government were good enough to place before the Committee Messrs. Cooke Sons & Matthews' report on the above lighthouse, asking for an expression of opinion as to the advisability of adopting the recommendations contained therein. As the report suggests such drastic measures as the removal and rebuilding of the lighthouse on another part of the island, at an expenditure of \$139,000, the Committee, with the limited information in their possession, were not prepared to suggest so serious an undertaking as above referred to, as it appears to them that in the apparent absence of any structural defect other remedies less costly might be tried. The question is really of a very important character, and in the opinion of the Committee the Government will do well to secure the expert assistance of officers attached to the Imperial Chinese Customs, whose long and varied experience in the construction of lighthouses along the coast of China would render their opinions of the utmost value.

POSTAGE RATES TO NEIGHBOURING PORTS.

A wide discrepancy exists between the rates charged to neighbouring ports, such as Manila,

and more distant places, but on pointing this out to the Government the Chamber was informed that for such anomalous charges there is no redress, Hongkong being subject to Postal Union rates. The inconsistency is the more striking when it is remembered that letters are carried locally at a mere nominal charge, while the conveyance of mails to Great Britain necessitates the paying of heavy subsidies, as well as making very considerable returns to the Italian and French Governments.

STORM WARNINGS FROM GAP LOCK.

Mr. John I. Plummer, Acting Director of Hongkong Observatory, when reporting on the typhoon of 23rd September, 1894, and referring to the inadequate telegraph connection between the Gap Rock and Hongkong, pointed out that communication was discontinued at 4 p.m. and not resumed again until 7 o'clock on the following morning—an arrangement which he very justly considered most seriously detracted from the usefulness of the station as a point for the despatch of storm warnings. To be effective the communication should be made as far as possible continuous, and on this being brought to the notice of the Government His Excellency the Governor was good enough to issue instructions for the continuous transmission of messages in regard to storms, whenever the authorities at the Observatory may consider it necessary.

TRANSIT PASSES.

The attention of the Committee has again been directed to this important question, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to fully investigate it. A considerable amount of correspondence has taken place, but it does not at present seem advisable in the interest of those engaged in the trade in foreign goods to make the letter public.

ELECTION OF THE CHAMBER'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

At a special general meeting of the members of the Chamber the Honourable A. McConachie was elected to take the place of the Honourable T. H. Whitehead in the Legislative Council during his absence from the colony.

COMMITTEE.

Mr. H. H. Joseph retired on his departure from the colony, and Mr. A. G. Wood is at present absent on leave. The Honourable A. McConachie, the Chamber's representative in the Legislative Council, was asked to join the Committee.

The Committee deeply regret to have to record the loss of Mr. H. Coppins, a much valued colleague, who was for many years associated with the Chamber. Mr. N. A. Siebs has been invited to join the Committee.

MEMBERS.

During the past year Messrs. Cohen & George, and Mr. G. von Wille resigned, and the following names have been added to the list of members:—Messrs. A. H. Rennie, The Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd., Bradley & Co., G. H. Wheeler, Attorney New York Standard Oil Company, Shewan & Co., and The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

FINANCE.

The accounts for the year ending 31st December were audited by Mr. J. Thurburn and Mr. J. Y. V. Vernon. The balance at the debit of the Chamber was \$1,876 96 with a fixed deposit of \$5,253, and a special fixed deposit, account "Pinnacle Rock" Fund, of \$2,878 80, both amounts being in the hands of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.

THE GROUNDING OF THE "POLYPHEMUS."

OFFICIAL INQUIRY.

On Friday a Marine Court of Inquiry was held at the Harbour Master's office, respecting the circumstances connected with the grounding of the British steamer *Polyphemus*, at Jubilee Island, on the 8th inst.

The Court consisted of Commander R. Murray Rumsey, R.N., Stipendiary Magistrate; Lieutenant F. W. Loane, R.N., U.M.S. *Undaunted*; Mr. G. Payne, master of the British steamship *Kutsang*; Mr. John Edward Farrell, master of the British steamship *Mongkut*; and A. J. H. Clark, master of the British steamship *Bennichr*. Mr. William Thomas Chubb, the number of whose certificate of competency is 010,481, is the master and commander of the *Polyphemus*, and

the official number of the ship is 97,812, of Liverpool.

Mr. A. B. Johnson appeared to watch the case on behalf of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire.

Commander R. M. Rumsey read a letter from Messrs. Butterfield and Swire asking for the inquiry to be held, and also the warrant by his Excellency the Governor for the holding of the Court.

The first witness was Mr. William Thomas Chubb, who said—I hold a master's certificate No. 010,481 issued at Liverpool in 1884. I have not the certificate here; it is on board the ship. I was appointed acting master of the *Polyphemus* at Singapore on 1st April. I had previously been chief officer. I left Singapore on the 2nd at 4 p.m. with general cargo for Hongkong and Japan. We had very fine weather, smooth water, and light winds, and there was no current with or against us till 6th April when past Macclesfield Bank, when the current set N. 25 degrees E. 14 miles, and on the next day we had the same weather with no current. We kept our usual watches on the way out. At 4 a.m. on the morning of the 8th I was called. The ship was then 21 miles south of Gap Rock, the weather slightly hazy. I saw a steamer coming down a good distance off on the starboard bow. The weather being hazy, the second officer asked me if he should remain on the bridge, and I told him I wished he would, and I took castings. The soundings proved 26 fathoms, shells. At 4.30 it became foggy, and I slowed down to half speed. We then sounded 23 fathoms. At 4.45 I reduced the engines to slow, and at 5 o'clock I told the second officer to take another cast. I did not receive a report of this sounding until after the ship struck. At 5.10 we reduced to dead slow. The Gap Rock fog signal was heard then for the first time on the port bow. As soon as I heard the fog gun I reversed the engines full speed astern, because I knew from the nearness of the sound that we were close up to land. The ship touched bottom about two or three minutes after, and came off immediately. I do not think she had any head way at all. Not knowing exactly where she was, because I could not see the land—only a dark line close to the water—I anchored as soon as we got a reasonable distance off. At 11 a.m. the fog lifted, and we got the ship under way and proceeded for Hongkong. On the 7th I got sights with the second and third officers. At noon on that day the position was 18.42 N., 113.40 E. No sights were taken in the afternoon. The position at noon made the ship 180 miles from Gap Rock. Each officer when he finishes his watch has to mark on the course line the position of the boat, and the position, 21 miles south of Gap Rock, at 4 o'clock in the morning, was that marked on the chart by the second officer. At that time she was going 10½ knots; this speed was taken by hand mark. She was going 57½ revolutions, and when we slowed down I rang up "half speed." I sent down to the chief engineer stating that I should probably want to slow down further. I was not shaping the course for Gap Rock, but two miles west. I did not form any idea how soon she lost way after putting her astern. When the fog cleared we were half a mile south of Jubilee Islands. After I anchored I found the water in No. 1 hold level with the water outside. The collision bulk head did not appear to be damaged, but I found that the sluice valve had been knocked off, and I thought the water had got into No. 1 hold through the sluice. The water in the fore peak was up to the level of the water outside. No. 2 hold was full of ball right up to the bulkhead, but no water got into this hold. The *Polyphemus* is five years old. I did not think it was necessary to put anything over the bows, because, owing to the touch being slight, I did not think much damage had been done to her. I did not see the light at the Gap Rock at all. I did not hear the fog signal until five o'clock. After that I heard it at intervals of thirteen minutes. The interval should have been ten minutes. I timed the fog signals.

Commander Rumsey—Experts have various opinions about the sound of signals in a fog. At any rate you did not hear the gun until 10 minutes past 5?

Witness—No. The ship did not make any more water after I got her under way.

The Court then had a private consultation, after which the witness was recalled. He said—I calculated the course I was steering to take

me two miles west of Gap Rock. The course was altered at noon on the 7th inst. with the object of steering two miles west of Gap Rock.

Commander Rumsey—You consider that two miles west of Gap Rock is a safe course?

Witness—Yes.

Proceeding, witness said that the look-out man was on the look-out bridge forward. He was not engaged in heaving the lead. Witness was expecting the fog signal from Gap Rock.

Commander Rumsey—Did you mention to anyone the fact that you had not heard the signal?

Witness—Only to the second officer. It was owing to the fact that we had not heard the signal that we went on deck till such time as we should see the light or hear the signal. I did not make any special remark about the fact.

Commander Rumsey—According to the speed you have given, the ship for some little time must have been within a radius of a mile and a half of Gap Rock.

Witness—Yes. We were going dead slow.

Commander Rumsey—Were you blowing your whistle?

Witness—No.

In answer to Captain Payne witness said he expected to hear the fog signal.

W. E. Renell, second officer, said—I had the 12 to 4 watch on 8th April. At four o'clock the weather was bright and clear. The captain ordered me to take the casts, and I found 26 fathoms. I asked the captain if I should stay on deck, and he said "Yes." The captain ordered another cast, and I got 23 fathoms. At 5 o'clock I took another cast, and I had not measured the gauge when the ship took the bottom. I was coming along the flying bridge with the tube from the last sounding when I heard the Gap Rock fog signal, and the ship took the ground almost immediately after. I heard the telegraph ring, and I knew by the vibration that it meant "action." When I took the sounding at five o'clock I consider the ship was not going more than 2½ knots. There was no light on land to be seen up to the time of taking the cast, and it was not until the ship had touched that I saw anything at all. It must have been less than two minutes between the time I felt the shock of touching the ground and the time I felt the vibration of going astern. For the first two casts I was assisted by a quartermaster named Richards, and for the third by a quartermaster named Kubb. The look out man on the forward bridge was not called to assist in heaving the line. I expected to hear the Gap Rock signal, but we did not hear it until just before we struck.

Robert Anderson, said—I am second engineer, and on the 8th inst. I had 4 to 8 o'clock watch. Shortly after 6 o'clock the second officer came down and said that we might be going slow or stopping, and so I was to be ready. Witness then spoke of the various reductions in the speed between 4 o'clock and the time the vessel struck.

An able seaman named Smith said he was on the look-out between 4 and 6 o'clock on the 8th inst. He was not specially warned to listen for fog signals. The first time he heard the fog signal was just before the ship struck.

The Court then adjourned.

On resuming the Court delivered the following finding:—

We find that the British steamship *Polyphemus*, official number 97,818, of which William Thomas Chubb was Master (certificate No. 010,481 of Liverpool), left Singapore on the 1st April, 1895, for Hongkong with general cargo.

That on the morning of the 8th April at about five o'clock in foggy weather the ship took the ground on Jubilee Island (approaches to Hongkong), the Master himself being on watch at the time.

The Court having regard to the evidence before it finds as follows:—

That the Master appears to have navigated his vessel in a seamanlike and proper manner.

That the vessel appears to have been sufficiently found and manned.

That a safe and proper course was being steered and that when the weather became thick the necessary precautions were taken with the exception that the steam whistle was not sounded.

That the ship must have passed the Gap Rock at a distance of not more than 1½ miles, she going at a moderate or slow speed, but that the

appointed fog signal at that station was not heard until almost immediately before she struck.

That if the Gap Rock fog signal had been heard the casualty would probably not have occurred.

The telegraphic fog report which is usually made from the Gap Rock to the Harbour Master was put before the Court; from this it adduces that the firing of the fog signal began at 4.20 a.m. and was continued till 11 a.m. and the correctness of this information being assumed the attention of the Court is directed to the remarks of the United States Hydrographic Office on the subject of the "Uncertainty of Audibility of Fog Signals," published in their Pilot Chart of the North Pacific Ocean for November, 1894, and the Court concludes that these remarks have been exemplified in the present case.

The Court therefore absolves the master from blame and his certificate is returned to him.

LECTURE ON ARGON.

A meeting of the Odd Volumes Society was held on Friday, at 5.30 p.m., to hear a lecture on argon, the recently discovered constituent of the atmosphere, by Mr. Frank Browne, F.C.S., Assistant Government Analyst. The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart presided.

The lecturer first pointed out that unlike recent discoveries, in which elements had been found in but small amounts, the present investigation of Lord Raleigh and Professor Ramsay had disclosed the presence of a new gas, which was present to a very large extent in the atmosphere. Seeing that the weight of the atmosphere is estimated to be about 11 trillions of pounds, and as argon forms about one per cent. of this weight, it is surprising that this new substance should have hitherto escaped detection. Having pointed out and experimentally shown in ordinary air the presence and separation of carbonic acid gas and oxygen, thus leaving a mixture of nitrogen and argon, the lecturer then related step by step the successive portions of the research, by which the authors claimed to have added to the number of the elements. It appears that Lord Raleigh noticed that "atmospheric" nitrogen was always slightly heavier than "chemical" nitrogen (that is, nitrogen obtained from chemical compounds, as ammonia, urea, nitrous oxide, nitric oxide, and ammonium nitrate). Professor Ramsay then suggested that experiments should be made in order to ascertain whether the previously so-called nitrogen might not contain some other unknown gas, which being heavier than nitrogen might account for the discrepancy noted. (On an examination of Cavendish's experiments, carried out in 1785, they noticed that this worker had to a certain extent indicated that "atmospheric" nitrogen might contain some foreign material; this gas when sparked with oxygen should be completely absorbed by alkali, which he found was not the case. The two investigators then repeated the sparking process and separated a gas (argon), which was found to weigh 19.9, when nitrogen weighs only 14. Another method for the separation of the two gases (nitrogen and argon) was then employed; it consisted in passing the gaseous mixture over heated magnesium, which retained the nitrogen, and the argon separated was found to be identical in properties with that obtained by the process of sparking. The speaker then explained that if a mixture of gases be drawn through some porous material, as a clay pipe, the lighter gases, according to a fixed law, diffuse faster than the heavier. This fact was made use of by the co-workers, and nitrogen and argon, having been drawn through a series of porous pipes, the lighter nitrogen diffusing left a gas containing much argon. As it might be open to criticism as to whether this new gas might not be formed from the "atmospheric" nitrogen by the sparking and magnesium processes, "chemical" nitrogen was subjected to a like treatment, but gave no argon. The properties of the new constituent were then dwelt upon, from which it appeared that the gas is colourless, without odour, density 19.9, and is more than 2½ times as soluble in water as nitrogen. The peculiarity of its spectra was then brought under notice, the principle of the spectroscopy being explained by exhibiting and explaining an instrument. Argon gives 199 bands, not one of which can be found in the

nitrogen spectrum. To Olszewski had been entrusted the determination of the gas' behaviour at low temperatures; at -128.6 deg. C under a pressure of 38 atmospheres argon was condensed to a liquid, and at -189.6 deg. C the gas was solidified. The principle of ascertaining the capacity for heat in gases was then explained; in the case of the new substance advantage had been taken of the relation which the velocity of sound in a gas bears to its capacity for heat, in order to determine its specific heat, which is 1.63. The gas will not unite at present with any other element or compound, whence the name "argon." The lecture concluded by Mr. Browne pointing out that more than ten years had been expended on this research, a period chiefly devoted to weary weighings, which had to be effected under considerable difficulty. Nevertheless the result had well repaid the trouble taken, and although still much time and care were requisite in order to decide whether argon was a simple or compound substance, the results now attained entitled the discovery to be considered the most important that has been announced to the scientific world for many years. A discussion followed, after which votes of thanks to the chairman and lecturer closed the meeting.

HONGKONG SKY RACE MEETING.

If those people who attended the Hongkong Sky Races on Saturday afternoon had been asked at noon whether they intended to go to the races the questioner would no doubt have been laughed at for putting such an absurd query. During the forenoon the possibility of there being any races at all appeared to be very remote, for dark clouds, a thunderstorm, and heavy rains at one time threatened the postponement of the meeting. But fortunately the weather behaved itself properly; the rain cleared off in good time, and the course was in capital condition. There was a very good attendance of spectators, amongst whom were His Excellency the Governor, Lieutenant-General Barker, Major-General Black, and Admiral Fremantle, and the sport was thoroughly enjoyable. The fields were large, but as a rule the finishes were not very exciting, although this fact did not lessen the interest in the afternoon's proceedings. At the conclusion of the races the cups were presented by Mrs. Barker. The following were the officers:—

Committee:—Capt. H. F. E. Gould Adams, R.A., Lieut. R. Alexander, R.R., Lieut.-Colonel Barrow, H.K.R., Lord C. Conyngham, R.B., Mr. W. A. Cruickshank, Capt. L. A. C. Gordon, R.A., Mr. G. C. C. Master, Mr. F. H. May, Capt. W. H. E. Murray, A.D.C., Lieut.-Colonel O'Gorman, D.A.A.G., Lieut. C. S. Taylor, R.A., Capt. A. A. Thomas, D.A.A.G.

Judge:—Hon. J. J. Keswick.

Starter:—Mr. A. Babington.

Clerk of the Scales:—Capt. W. H. Murray, A.D.C.

Hon. Treasurer:—Mr. A. Babington.

Hon. Secretary:—Mr. Hart Buck.

During the afternoon the Band of the Rifle Brigade played the following selections:—

Quadrille.....	"Monte Carlo".....	Hewitt.
Overture.....	"Bauer and Dichter".....	Suppe.
Walse.....	"Louisiana".....	Squire.
Selection.....	"Little Christopher Columbus".....	Caryll.
Dance.....	"The Boston Belle".....	Godfrey.
Galop.....	"Champagne".....	Schirbel.
	"God save the Queen."	

HALF-MILE RACE; prize presented; for all China ponies; weight for inches as per scale with 12lbs. added; subscription griffins of 1891/95, allowed 7lbs.; bona fide polo ponies and hacks, allowed 2lbs.; second to receive \$10; third to save stake. Entrance, \$3.

Capt. Thomas' Morrison, 11st.....(Owner) 1

Mr. Manners' Magic, 11st, 3lbs. (Mr. Hart Buck) 2

Mr. W. D. Graham's Haughty, 10st, 12lbs. (Mr. Gedge) 3

Lord C. Conyngham's Glenties (late Glen-gairn) 11st, 9lbs.....(Owner) 0

Mr. John Peel's Griffin, 11st. (Mr. Cruickshank) 0

Morrison was of course the favourite. At the start Magic led, with the others following in a line, Haughty being the closest to the leader. The ponies were in a bunch when the bend was reached, and it was then that Morrison, who had been kept in reserve, shot to the front, and won

easily by some lengths. Magic was second, and Haughty third. Time, 61½ secs.

POLO SCURRY; prize presented; for all *bona fide* polo ponies; catch weights over 11st. 7lbs.; second to save stake; entrance, \$2. A quarter of a mile.

Mr. F. H. May's Sweetbrier, 11st. 7lbs. (Owner) 1

Capt. Murray's The Friar, 11st. 7lbs. (Captain Thomas) 2

Mr. W. R. Wingfield Digby's Surefoot, 11st. 7lbs. (Owner) 3

Mr. Landale's Seamew, 11st. 7lbs. (Owner) 0

Mr. Gedge's Crusader, 11st. 7lbs. (Owner) 0

This was a short and exciting race. The ponies kept abreast for more than half the distance, when Sweetbrier drew out, but only obtained a slight advantage, and a tough race was witnessed between Mr. May's pony and Captain Murray's pony. Sweetbrier won by about three quarters of a length. There was a mistake in the weighing room, as Mr. May was announced to mount The Pirate, but the owner stated that the error was not his, as he did not weigh in for The Pirate, but for Sweetbrier. Time, 31½ secs.

ONE MILE HANDICAP.—A forced entry for all China Ponies entered at this Sky Meeting (except in races 2 and 7), Entrance, \$1; entries left in after 17th April, \$4.00 extra. Entrance fees with \$10 added to go to the Winner; second to receive \$20; third to save Stake.

Mr. George's Harfang, 10st. 12lbs. (Owner) 1

Captain Thomas' Dandy, 11st. 2lbs. (Owner) 2

Lord C. Conyngham's Baccarat, 11st. 3lbs. (Owner) 3

Mr. Cruickshank's Havoc, 11st. 5lbs. (Owner) 0

Mr. Hart Buck's Voltigeur, 11st. (Mr. Power) 0

Mr. John Peel's Griffin, 11st. 2lbs. (Mr. Harris) 0

There were two false starts, and when the ponies at length got away, Harfang took a slight lead, all the others, with the exception of Dandy, who was some distance in the rear, being close together. This order was maintained until going up the hill, when Dandy pulled up considerably, and at the rock was well up to Harfang. This pair and Baccarat were well ahead in the straight for home, but it was always a fight between Harfang and Dandy. Dandy, however, could not reach Harfang, who came right away and won by half a dozen lengths. Time, 2 mins. 12½ secs.

THREE-QUARTER-MILE RACE. Prize presented; second to receive \$10; third to save stake; for subscription griffins of any year; weight for inches as per scale; winners and placed ponies at any race meeting in Hongkong or China (Off Days not to count), 5lbs and 3lbs. extra respectively. Penalties accumulative.

Mr. R. M. Gray's Piccaninny, 11st. 7lbs. (Mr. Taylor) 1

Mr. F. H. May's Silver Dart, 11st. 3lbs. (Owner) 2

Mr. W. D. Graham's Haughty, 10st. 7lbs. (Mr. Gedge) 3

Lord C. Conyngham's Glenties, 12st. 1lbs. (Owner) 0

Piccaninny was leading at the commencement, being closely followed by Silver Dart, with Glenties some distance behind. Going up the hill Haughty and Piccaninny were abreast, but Silver Dart quickly recovered his position, and Haughty soon became third. This was the order throughout the race, Piccaninny winning very comfortably. Time 1 min. 41 secs.

1st BATTALION RIFLE BRIGADE PLATE, presented by Mr. R. Alexander. To be competed for annually; open to officers, 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade; for all China ponies; weight 12st. for 13 hands, to give or take 3lbs. for every inch over or under; winners at any race meeting in Hongkong or China 7 lbs. extra; subscription griffins, non-winners, allowed 7 lbs.; subscription griffins, winners, allowed 3 lbs.; entrance \$2, to go to the second. Distance—one mile.

Lord C. Conyngham's Baccarat, 12st. 3lbs. (Owner) 1

Mr. Salmon's Q. C. 12st. 6lb. (Owner) 2

Lord C. Conyngham's El Diablo, 11st. 11lbs. (Mr. Power) 3

Mr. Paley's Donald Dhu, 12st. (Owner) 0

Mr. W. R. Wingfield Digby's Surefoot, 12st. (Owner) 0

Baccarat led the way, Q.C. being second, and Surefoot third. This order was maintained

until the hill was reached, when El Diablo drew up, and Baccarat had now obtained a very appreciable lead. At the bend Baccarat took a long sweep round, and so Q.C. was enabled to lessen the leader's advantage; but Baccarat's victory was never in doubt, and he passed the post several lengths before Q.C. El Diablo was third, and Surefoot fourth. Donald Dhu mistook his mission in life. From start to finish he jogged along in a most unracinglike manner, but managed to pass the post not more than one minute behind the winner. Time, 2 mins. 23 secs.

FIVE FURLONGS RACE.—Prize Presented. Second to receive \$10; third to save stake. For all China Ponies; weight for inches as per scale; previous winners and placed ponies at this Sky Meeting, 7lbs. and 3lbs. extra respectively; hacks and *bona fide* Polo Ponies allowed 7lbs. Entrance, \$3.

Capt. Thomas's Dandy, 10st. 9lbs. (Owner) 1

Mr. Little's Chesai, 10st. 12lbs. (Mr. Taylor) 2

Dr. Noble's Crescent, 11st. 7lbs. (Mr. Noble) 3

Mr. Cruickshank's Warlock, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Cruickshank) 0

A good start was effected, and Dandy quickly took a slight lead. All the ponies were in a bunch until passing the village, when Dandy increased his lead and Chesai, who had been third, drew up to second position. In the straight Dandy came away with a good spurt and won by about five lengths; a bad third. Time 1 min. 19 secs.

STEEPLECHASE.—Prize presented. Second to receive \$10; third to save stake. For all China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; ponies other than subscription griffins and *bona fide* polo ponies and hacks, to carry 12st.; previous winners and placed ponies in a steeplechase 10lbs. and 5lbs. respectively; entrance, \$3.00. From the black rock, once round and in.

Mr. Manners' Magic, 11st. 3lb. (Mr. Cruickshank) 1

Mr. Landale's Endeavour, 11st. 13lb. (Owner) 2

Mr. Salmon's Q. C. 11st. 9lb. (Mr. Salmon) 0

Mr. Hart Buck was weighed in for Voltigeur, but he did not start, and Harboro, also owned by Mr. Buck, bolted through the bamboo fence on being taken to the starting post, and his rider, Mr. Harris, was dismounted, but he did not sustain any injury. The race was a gift for Magic, who won in the easiest manner. Endeavour was a long way behind, and Q.C. retired after clearing the third fence.

LADIES NOMINATION RACE; three prizes presented; to saddle a pony on the course at the winning post, mount, ride round a post about 150 yards distant; return, dismount, and receive a cigar and a box of matches from a lady, light the cigar, mount, ride over the same course again; first past the winning post with cigar alight and girths tight to win; entrance \$1.

Mr. Cruickshank's Unknown... Miss Keswick 1

Mr. Landale's Endeavour... Mrs. C. Hawkins 2

Capt. Murray's The Friar... Miss Barker 3

Surgeon-Major Reade's Gungadeen... Mrs. Beveridge 0

Mr. W. R. Wingfield Digby's Panch Wallah... Mrs. Dalrymple 0

Mr. Gedge's Engineer... Mrs. May 0

Mr. Paley's Yellow Hammer... Mdm. O'Gorman 0

Considerable interest was manifested in this race, which provided plenty of amusement for the spectators and excitement for the nominators, during the short time it lasted.

CHAMPIONS.—Cup Presented. Second to receive \$20; third to save stake. For all China ponies weight for inches as per scale; entrance, \$5. One mile and a quarter.

Capt. Thomas' Morrison, 10st. 9lbs. (Owner) 1

Lord C. Conyngham's Baccarat, 10st. 10lbs. (Owner) 2

Mr. Cruickshank's Havoc, 11st. 4lbs. (Owner) 3

Mr. George's Harfang, 10st. 9lbs. (Owner) 0

Mr. Cruickshank's Warlock 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Harris) 0

Mr. Little's Chesai, 10st. 12lbs. (Mr. Taylor) 0

Dr. Noble's Crescent, 10st. 7lbs. (Owner) 0

It was getting dark when this race was started as there was considerable delay at the post owing to the fractiousness of Warlock, who at length bolted and threw his rider. Mr. Cruickshank fortunately was not hurt.

Baccarat obtained a substantial lead, but at the rock Chesai gained upon him. In the straight Morrison came forward with a bound and won in splendid style, Baccarat being second, and Havoc third. Time, 2 mins 46 3/5ths secs. On returning to the paddock Baccarat bolted at Warlock, and Lord C. Conyngham was dismounted, but fortunately he was not injured. During the afternoon Mr. F. H. May's ponies were sold by auction. Silver Dart fetched \$50, Sweetbrier \$75, and The Pirate was disposed of privately for \$150.

SUPREME COURT.

16th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. W. M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

BELILIOS v. G. S. COXON.

This was an action by the Hon. E. H. Belilios on a deed of mortgage. A writ of foreign attachment had been issued against the defendant's property. Mr. Phillippo represented the plaintiff, and defendant did not appear, nor was he represented.

The plaintiff said—I am a merchant residing and carrying on business in Hongkong. I know the defendant, George Stewart Coxon, and he is in England. I believe he is living at New Lynn. On 24th October, 1891, I gave him a cheque on the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for \$10,000. He has since paid me back, on different occasions, \$2,909.92, leaving a balance due of \$7,090.08. At the rate of seven per cent. simple interest the total amount due is \$9,373.52.

Mr. Phillippo said that in the petition compound interest was charged. He asked his Lordship's leave to amend it to simple interest.

His Lordship consented to the petition being amended.

The plaintiff, continuing, said—This amount was due on 30th March last. I have not a copy of the mortgage, but the date of it was on the memorial. I sent the original mortgage to England on the 28th February.

Mr. E. J. Moses, bookkeeper to the plaintiff, said the total amount paid back was \$2,910.12.

His Lordship—Mr. Belilios said it was \$2,909.92.

Witness—That is a mistake.

His Lordship—Your bookkeeper makes ten cents against yourself, Mr. Belilios.

Plaintiff—I do not mind. I am quite content with that.

In reply to another question the plaintiff said he claimed only simple interest by the advice of his lawyers.

Mr. A. Seth, Acting Deputy Land Officer, produced documents in connection with the case.

This was the whole of the evidence, and Mr. Phillippo asked for judgment with costs against the defendant.

His Lordship—I think in this case, *prima facie*, a claim is proved. I am a little doubtful whether the process for foreign attachment may not at times work a hardship, because the proceedings are taken behind the back, as it were, of the man who is not here. If a person goes away from the colony, and it is impossible to find him, and nobody knows where he is to be found, and if that person has incurred a debt in the colony, and he has some property in the colony, I can well understand that it is right and proper that the creditor should be able to seize that property and take proceedings against the debtor, and you cannot give him any notice of those proceedings because you do not know where he is. But if it is possible to find a defendant, I should like to see a notice of the proceedings served on that defendant. I do not personally know Mr. Coxon's address, and no one has come forward, either the garnishee or any other person, to inform me of that address. I cannot, sitting here as judge, proceed to make enquiries to see whether it is possible to find Mr. Coxon's address; it is possible that he could very well be found. However, while I feel that although I would rather have seen a notice of the writ for foreign attachment given to him, still I do not think I am doing an injustice, because after careful enquiry I am informed that I am only carrying out the usual practice of the Court; and if any injustice is done to Mr. Coxon by these proceedings, which are taken here without

direct notice to him his remedy is very ample. Section 82 of the Code of Civil Procedure, sub-section 27, enacts as follows:— "The defendant may at any time within two years from the date of the judgment, notwithstanding that the property attached, or any part thereof, shall have been sold in satisfaction of the plaintiff's claim, apply to the Court upon notice of motion for an order to set aside the judgment, and for the re-hearing of the suit, and for leave to defend the same; and if it shall appear to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant had no notice or knowledge of the suit, and could not reasonably have made earlier application to the Court, and that he had at the time of the obtaining of the judgment and still has a substantial ground of defence, for the whole or any part of the suit on the merits, it shall be lawful for the Court to grant such order upon such terms as it may deem reasonable." As at the commencement of these proceedings the plaintiff entered into a bond for double the amount of the claim to abide by any order that the Court may make hereafter, I do not think that the defendant is likely to suffer any injustice by these proceedings, which are usual proceedings, and which it appears, by the wording of the Code, may be taken by the plaintiff without giving the defendant direct notice, although subject to the bond entered into by the plaintiff, and subject to any application within two years of plaintiff's judgment. I therefore give judgment for the amount claimed on the petition as amended for the plaintiff, with costs.

Mr. Philippo asked for execution.

His Lordship—That is a subject for special application. I understand that some part of this furniture is claimed by Mr. A. Coxon, and therefore your client must be very careful that in dealing with Mr. George Coxon's furniture he does not deal with anybody else's, or else he would be liable for an action. It might save trouble if Mr. A. Coxon stated what belongs to him. You have got judgment for the claim, and I do not think I need make any order about the enforcement of the writ of attachment to-day.

Mr. Philippo—No, I do not think I need trouble your Lordship now.

18th April.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. W. M. GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER AND MUTINY.

The four sailors, George Brown, Hans Abrams, Joseph Godzowski, and James Sumpter Land, were indicted on various counts with attempting to murder Mr. J. C. McDougall, master mariner, of the barque *Launberga*, and the mate, H. R. Bowyer, at Iloilo, on 23rd March. Brown was further indicted for assaulting, with intent to do grievous bodily harm, the steward, Robert Otto, and Godzowski was also indicted for assaulting the steward.

The following jury was empanelled.—Messrs. F. Dodwell, R. A. Gubbay, J. P. Cottam, A. Sharp, H. W. Robertson, John Hand, G. M. Carvalho.

The prosecution was conducted by the Acting Attorney-General (Hon. A. G. Wise), who was instructed by Mr. A. B. Johnson, Crown Solicitor, and Mr. Ellis.

The Acting Attorney-General, in opening the case, detailed the charges, and explained that on 23rd March the British barque *Launberga* was at Iloilo, and in consequence of instructions from the authorities there all leave was stopped. This order caused some friction amongst the crew, and the climax was reached about six o'clock in the evening, when a quarrel arose between the first mate and Brown. Brown was not content with knocking the mate down, but he threw a lump of coal at him. About that time the captain went on the scene with a revolver. The prisoners and two other men, Schumen and Kelly, both of whom are dead, made an attack upon the captain with open knives, and just about that time Godzowski struck the steward with his fist, and Brown stabbed the steward in the shoulder. Kelly struck the captain in the forehead with a knife, causing an ugly wound, and the captain fired his revolver twice and shot his assailant dead. Prisoners then seized the captain, and in the struggle which ensued Abrams used threatening words,

while Land took the revolver from the Captain's grasp and threw it into the sea. The captain then went to his cabin, and Brown and Godzowski went to the cabin window and threatened the captain with their knives. The prisoners afterwards went ashore, where they were arrested.

Evidence in support of this statement was given, and the captain was cross-examined by the prisoners, who sought to show that the captain had made use of various abusive epithets, but the captain denied using such language. One of the crew named Desmond said he exclaimed, before a shot was fired, "Shoot, captain, shoot." Witness considered their lives were in danger, as the prisoners were using open knives.

The first three prisoners' defence was that they were ill-used, and that the captain shot Kelly without any provocation, and Godzowski said he was between the captain and Kelly when the shots were fired. They took the revolver away from the captain, to prevent him from doing further mischief.

Land made a long speech, in which occurred the following sentences:—When we got to Manila I asked some one whether he was the British Consul. He said "Yes." I said, "Well, I charge McDougall with wilful murder." He ordered me to shut up, and said he would hear nothing against the captain. It is a common occurrence for Nova Scotians to draw their revolvers upon men forward, and it is very seldom that a Nova Scotian gives fair battle. If a forward man gets the best, the whole after gang come forward, and that man gets a licking. You are never called by your name on board a Nova Scotia ship. Its "Hi, there, you son of a—go along with you—lime juicer." If you are sent aloft to do a job, its "Now then — your heart, none of them Queen Victoria moves."

His Lordship—Is it to your advantage to use that sort of language in Court? If you think it is necessary, do so, but if you do not think so, do not use such language. We do not want to hear more of that language.

The prisoner Land—I do think so. I want to show how sailors are treated aboard that ship. It is not my language I am using. When a man joins a Nova Scotia ship, he simply signs away all liberty and respectability. We are compelled to eat rotten meat or starve. We never got a decent bit of meat to put in our mouths. A box of meat was opened in Manila, and there were maggots in it. The captain of a Nova Scotia ship never interferes in a row unless the officer has got the worst of it, and then he takes the officer's part. He never troubles to find out who is in the right, as his articles demand him to. It was not until the mate was getting the worst of it that the captain pulled out his revolver. Is that mutiny or cold-blooded murder? Is it mutiny and attempted murder on our part, or cold-blooded murder on his? The only thing we did was to wrest the revolver from the captain to keep him from shooting anyone else. The captain was the only man who attempted to commit murder, and he did commit murder. We could have killed every man aft if such a thing had been our intention. Our intention was to stop the fight, not to carry it on. When I got the revolver everyone of us left the poop. I ask the jury, is it mutiny on our part, or cold-blooded murder by the captain, when he shot a Britisher without a moment's warning? If that man (pointing to the captain) is not a murderer, there never was a murderer in this world. Land also said he and the others were placed in prison amongst half savages—naked men—and while they were there the authorities got the captain's statement.

His Lordship then summed up.

The jury unanimously found Brown guilty of attempted murder, and the other three guilty of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. On the minor counts a verdict of guilty was returned, except in the case of the fourth count. The jury expressed the opinion that Brown and Land were the worst of the prisoners, and that the other two were led away by them.

His Lordship quite agreed with these views, and sentenced Brown, who admitted having stabbed the captain three times, to five years' imprisonment, and Land to two years' imprisonment. Godzowski and Abrams each received a sentence of a year's imprisonment. On the other counts the prisoners were sentenced to various shorter terms of imprisonment, but they were all made to run concurrently.

19th April.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. W. M. GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.)

IN RE A. E. SKEELS.

Mr. Holmes appeared for the bankrupt, who made application for his order of discharge, and Mr. H. L. Denny appeared for Mr. W. M. B. Arthur, a creditor, to oppose the application.

Mr. Holmes, in making the application, said the usual conditions of the Bankruptcy Ordinance had been complied with. The final examination of the bankrupt was duly passed, and a report had been made by the Official Trustee, which showed the state of the bankrupt's accounts. It appeared from that report that at present on the total amount of the debts there was a dividend of 5½ per cent.; if the dividend were declared simply on the debts proved there would be a much larger dividend, but the practice now seemed to be to declare a dividend in the first instance on the full amount of debts and reserve what was not claimed for a future dividend, giving time to others to come in and prove; so that though 5½ per cent. might seem small, when the final dividend was declared the position might be considerably different. The petition in this matter was filed as far back as the 7th June, 1894, the receiving order was made on the 15th June, the public examination was held on the 10th November, and the order of adjudication was made on the 7th February, so that the matter had been standing over a considerable time, and the bankrupt now applied in ordinary course for his order of discharge. The Official Trustee's report appeared to be a favourable one, so far as the intention of the bankrupt was shown. It would be within his Lordship's knowledge that for some time business in Hongkong was very bad and during the plague it stopped almost completely. In consequence of business being in that state the bankrupt was unable to carry on, and there were certain outstanding debts that he was unable to collect. In carrying on as long as he did, he did so in the hope that things would improve. For some time, as his Lordship would see from the evidence on the file, he made fair profits and everything seemed to be going on very well indeed, but these bad times came and put a stop to that. All the transactions, his Lordship would see, were in the usual course of business, and there was no case in which fraud or bad faith was shown or any attempt to give one creditor a preference over another. The bankrupt's business was that of an auctioneer and commission agent and all money received went into a general account. If his Lordship should be unable to grant an immediate order he would ask him to suspend it only for a short time or with conditions, as his Lordship had power to do under Section 27 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance.

Mr. Denny said the debt in respect of which he appeared was one for five hundred odd dollars. The bankrupt undertook, on the 13th April, 1894, to sell Mr. Arthur's furniture for him, Mr. Arthur being about to leave the colony, and told him that immediately on receipt of the money he would pay it into the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to Mr. Arthur's account. He did not think it necessary to quote any authority to show that an auctioneer was in a fiduciary position, but he called attention to the views of Chief Justice Cotton expressed in the case of *Crowther v. Elwood* reported in L.R. 34 C.D., 691.

His Lordship remarked that in the present case the bankrupt did not put the money in his own pocket.

Mr. Denny said the bankrupt commenced business in January, 1893, and in December, 1893, he knew, or must have known, that he was insolvent. Four months after that, in April, he undertook to sell furniture for his (Mr. Denny's) client, distinctly telling him he would pay the money into his account at the Bank. He did not become bankrupt at once, but filed his petition in June, and he now offered Mr. Arthur \$29.44, he himself charging the sum of \$30.65 for selling the furniture. He (Mr. Denny) submitted that if ever there was a case in which bad faith must be implied this was such a case. Mr. Denny went on to refer to the manner in which the bankrupt's books were kept and to the fact that after stating his assets as \$2,023 an amended statement was put in giving

them as \$840, the bankrupt being unable to explain the discrepancy, and he submitted the not keeping of proper books must be presumed to be intended to conceal the true state of affairs.

His Lordship said he had before him a report by Mr. Bruce Shepherd, and he attached much importance to that report, because Mr. Shepherd must have heard both parties. The Judge could not hope to satisfy both parties and in a contested case he must be to a great extent guided by the official report. He could understand Mr. Denny's client feeling very indignant about the matter.

Mr. Denny said his client was very indignant. The amount was not very large; still it was something. The bankrupt undertook to sell Mr. Arthur's furniture and pay the money into the bank, and the first thing Mr. Arthur knew about the money not being paid was when the bankrupt filed his petition. He submitted that the bankrupt had offended against section 27 sub-section (e) by continuing to trade after knowing himself to be insolvent. An auctioneer was not in the same position as a merchant with accounts all over the world. An auctioneer could always in a very short time ascertain his position if he confined himself, as the bankrupt said he did, to commission business. He contended also that the bankrupt had committed an offence under sub-section (d.), as he had contracted a debt, that is, he had appropriated this money, without having any reasonable or probable expectation of being able to pay it. He knew in the previous December that he was hopelessly insolvent, and he simply used this money for his own purposes.

His Lordship said he did not see how it could be said the bankrupt had at the time he undertook to sell the furniture no reasonable expectation of being able to pay, because the cash he received would enable him to pay.

Mr. Denny—Yes; but when he got the money, instead of paying it into Mr. Arthur's account, he paid it into his own, although he knew he was insolvent.

His Lordship—It was part of his business to receive goods to sell by auction.

Mr. Denny—Of course; but when he got paid for these goods he ought to have paid the money straight into Mr. Arthur's account instead of his own.

His Lordship—But whenever an auctioneer becomes bankrupt it is because he cannot pay his debts; he carries on business up to the date of his bankruptcy, and what you say now might be said in every case.

Mr. Denny—There was no harm in his taking the goods to sell, but when he got the money he ought to have paid it into Mr. Arthur's account.

His Lordship—I quite agree with you it is a very rough thing on a man to find that an auctioneer to whom he entrusts his goods for sale has gone bankrupt, but that happens in every case of an auctioneer's bankruptcy. It would be different if you or I undertook to sell goods for a friend and put the money into our own pocket, but here what he has done with the money is to pay it to his creditors.

Mr. Denny—Yes, but how much? Five cents in the dollar!

His Lordship—I know it is very hard; but you would not expect him to keep a series of accounts in the names of all his different clients.

Mr. Denny—Yes, my lord, when he knew he was insolvent. If he had had any grounds for believing he was solvent in April, 1894, it would have been a different thing; but in December, 1893, he knew he was hopelessly insolvent. He kept no books, but he knew what his expenses were, what his capital was, and what he had to repay to the principal people who lent him money. Your lordship has the power under the Ordinance of punishing the bankrupt; that I leave to your lordship; but with reference to the discharge, your lordship has no power to grant an immediate discharge and I think the Court ought to show its sense of the way the bankrupt has acted by refusing his discharge, at any rate for a term.

His Lordship—I have before me the report of the Official Trustee and from that report it appears the petition was filed on the 7th June, 1894, and that Mr. Skeels was adjudicated on the 2nd February, 1895; that the amount of unsecured debts was \$7,467, that the assets available for unsecured creditors amounted altogether to \$1,323, and that after making the various payments that have to be made in these matters, preferential payments and so on,

there is a sum of \$551, which has been appropriated to payment of a dividend fixed at 5½ per cent. Mr. Bruce Shepherd says the bankrupt has not kept proper books of account, and that he started business in copartnership with another as commission merchant and auctioneer in January, 1893. Now that does not say that in not keeping books the debtor intended to conceal the true state of his affairs. His Lordship then read an extract from the report to the effect that the bankrupt appeared to have been under the strong impression his trade would improve and that by continuing his business he would be able to pay his debts in full. His business, however, continued to decrease instead of improving, but Mr. Bruce Shepherd does not attribute the decrease to the fault of the bankrupt. The bankrupt had given every assistance to the Official Trustee in the winding up of his affairs, and the Official Trustee had no objection to his discharge subject to such suspension of the order of discharge as the Court might think fit. Now, his lordship continued, to apply the law to this state of facts. When a man comes up for his discharge there are four courses open. It is possible to grant it absolutely, to refuse it absolutely, to grant it subject to conditions with respect to any earnings or income which may afterwards become due to the bankrupt, or, in the fourth alternative, it is possible to order that the operation of the discharge should be suspended for a certain period. Now, an immediate absolute discharge is only given in cases where a dividend of 50 per cent. or upwards is paid and the conduct of the bankrupt is in every respect satisfactory. Section 27, sub-sections 3 and 4, require the Court at least to suspend the operations of the discharge when a dividend of less than 50 per cent. is paid. It is quite true that there is a power to imprison if certain facts are shown, and if the Trustee had reported to me in this case that the omission to keep the usual books of account had been with intent to conceal the true state of his affairs—in which respect section 27 of Ordinance 20 of 1891 is amended by 6 of 1892, section 10—and I had been satisfied that intent existed, I should have been inclined to consider whether it would not be necessary to imprison the bankrupt, but on the whole in this case I think justice will be done by suspending the operation of the discharge. I had grave doubts in my mind when I heard Mr. Denny whether I ought not to make the suspension longer than I have in one or two other cases, because I think the bankrupt's conduct in that case of Mr. Arthur's was exceedingly unsatisfactory, but I think on the whole the justice of the case will be met by suspending the certificate for nine months. In making the suspension for that period I have taken into consideration the fact that the plague occurring in May last year, that is, just a month before the bankrupt filed his petition, must have deprived him of all reasonable hope of recovering himself in his business, which Mr. Bruce Shepherd seems to have thought he had reasonable hopes of doing, had it not been for the untoward circumstances which occurred and forced him to file his petition.

IN RE SMITH ALLISTON.

Mr. Grist (of Mr. Wilkinson's office) appeared for the bankrupt, who made application for his order of discharge. There was no opposition.

Mr. Grist said that in this case the petition was filed on the 20th November last, the receiving order was made on the 3rd December, and the adjudication took place on the 15th February. The circumstances which brought about this bankruptcy were, he submitted, those of great hardship. The bankrupt started business in October, 1893, with two partners, Chinese, they finding the capital of \$5,000. In December, 1893, one of the partners retired and was bought out by the other Chinese partner, Ng Pak To. Then in June, 1894, Ng Pak To wished to retire, as he did not wish to be connected with business of any kind any longer, and he requested the debtor to pay him the amount of capital he had furnished. The amount of capital was then about \$7,000. He did not wish then to receive immediate payment; he saw he could not, as the capital was being used in the business, and therefore promissory notes were given payable, \$2,000 the first year, \$2,000 the second year, and \$3,000 afterward, with interest, which was to be paid every month. Ng Pak To then went away—his lordship would remember the plague was then on—and did not return until September, when he came and applied for

his interest. He was then paid \$80, which was due to him for salary while he was in the business. He did not make any further application for interest, but suddenly took out a writ of summons. The promissory notes were subject to the condition that on failure in the payment of any one month's interest the whole amount was to become due and payable. Well, the interest was not paid, there was no application for it, and therefore he had a right to demand payment of the whole amount due to him, which he did by writ of summons, and it was in consequence of that sudden pressure that the bankrupt was compelled to file his petition.

His Lordship—I think you have said enough, Mr. Grist. I have the report of the Official Trustee, which shows that the bankrupt kept all proper books of account. He states the circumstances and says the bankrupt had given him every assistance in winding up his affairs and that he makes no objection to the discharge. The dividend already paid amounts to 6 per cent. and it is possible another 3 per cent. may be paid. The dividend being less than 50 per cent. takes it out of my power to grant an immediate discharge. It therefore reduces itself to this, during what period shall I require the discharge to be suspended.

Mr. Grist—Yes, but a nominal period would suffice if your lordship was satisfied of the hardship, and I submit there has been very great hardship. What confirms that is that there has been absolutely no opposition throughout the proceedings. The creditors have acquiesced in everything.

His Lordship—I will make it as short as I can. Men come here and start a speculative business and the Hongkong public suffers by it sometimes. I have looked through the file and I think the justice of the case will be met by a suspension of four months.

THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS, LIMITED, v. E. L. LEPISSIER.

We subjoin a translation of the judgment recently given by the Court of Appeal in Saigon in favour of the above Bank in the appeal case brought by them against M. Lepissier for payment of a call on 30 shares in the said Bank registered in his name.

Among other arguments M. Lepissier's counsel cited the judgment given in June last against the Bank by the United States Consular Court in Shanghai in a similar action, and which was based chiefly on the ground that the Directors had entered into business which was not authorised by the Articles of Association.

The Court in Saigon decided that this question, even if it had been established, would not affect the point at issue in the present case, and gave judgment accordingly.

JUDGMENT.

The Court having heard, at the public audience of 8th February, 1895, in their respective arguments M. Ternisien for the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits Limited, appellants, and M. Sambuc for M. Lepissier, respondent;

The Crown Advocate having been heard; After having deliberated according to the law;

Whereas it results from the character of the judgment appealed against, that the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits Limited, a joint stock company having its head office in London, having claimed from M. Lepissier a sum of £15 sterling, in his position as proprietor of 30 shares, in consequence of a call decided upon by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on the 3rd August, 1893, Lepissier declared first of all that he was no longer a shareholder, having sold his shares through the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on the 11th June, 1892.

Whereas, in pretending that he was no longer a shareholder Lepissier filed a cross demand that it would please the Court

1.—To order an enquiry into the actions of the Bank of China and to nominate an administrator charged to take in hand the affairs of the Company, to find out its exact position, and to proceed to its liquidation.

2.—To declare the Administrators and Directors of the Bank civilly and personally responsible for having illegally removed its head office from China (where it was originally) to London and for the disaster brought about by this change of the direction away from the control of the shareholders.

3.—To decree that the question is judged not partially but in its entire development and that consequently the Bank cannot proceed against the defendant for further calls.

Whereas by preparatory judgment dated 6th March, 1894, the Court ordered the production of the Articles of Association, the minutes of the meetings of shareholders, and, although the case was one of those foreseen by the Article 14 of the Code of Commerce, sundry balance sheets, the register of transfers, and an exact statement of the position at the time.

Whereas by the final judgment dated 24th April, 1894, the Consular Court of France at Shanghai, omitting absolutely to adjudicate upon the counter-claim brought forward by Lepissier, contented itself with declaring the Bank of China's demand unfounded, rejected it, and condemned them in costs.

Whereas a regular appeal has been made from that decision by the Bank of China, following an act of chancery dated 14th June, 1894.

Whereas the first judge having omitted to adjudicate on the counter-claim of Lepissier, it is found implicitly rejected, and Lepissier not having raised it again by appeal the Court is not bound by it, and ought to confine its examination to the principal claim brought forward by the Bank of China and Japan.

As to allowing the claim in justice of the suit of the Bank of China.

Whereas the Bank of China, being regularly constituted according to English law, has the right to ask French Courts to order the execution of conventions entered into between it and third parties under the jurisdiction of French tribunals, and this in terms of the Convention of 30th April, 1862.

As to the request being well found.

Whereas the call has been made in conformity with the Articles of Association, which bind Lepissier in his position of shareholder, as in terms of Article 18, the Directors can make calls when they think fit, that this formula excludes the right for shareholders to contest the opportuneness.

Whereas Lepissier is wrong in disputing his position as a shareholder, as in fact he does not deny having bought on two occasions 15 shares, although he maintains having sold them;

Whereas the sale of the shares to a third party did not release him from his position as a shareholder as far as the Company are concerned; the transfer in the register of the Company alone relieving him from that position.

Well, now, whereas it follows from the evidence produced he still remains on the register of transfers.

That the sale by him, made through the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, cannot be set up against the Bank of China, because in terms of Article 36 of the Articles of Association, the Directors can oppose the transfer of all shares not fully paid up. That Lepissier does not even justify himself by having made a step towards obtaining from the Bank of China authority to transfer his shares.

As far as the bad management of the finances are concerned, the violation of the Articles of Association, the loss of a part of the capital stated in the judgment and on which the defence of the respondent insists these facts are not established, but if they were they would be without interest in the case.

That in fact they could serve for the basis of a demand for the dissolution of the Company, a demand which has not been brought before the Court. Lepissier having failed to appeal and which may therefore be considered as abandoned by him, but could not justify the refusal to pay the call, the Articles of Association empowering the Directors to make such calls when they think fit, and this without being obliged to establish before the shareholders the opportuneness of such a call and that it is well founded.

For these reasons.

Reverse the judgment against which this is the appeal.

Order Mr. Lepissier to pay to the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits Limited, the sum of £15 sterling plus interest at 10 per cent. per annum in accordance with the Articles of Association on £7 10s. from 1st November, 1893, and on £7 10s. from 1st February, 1894.

Condemn him besides in all costs of the first instance and of the appeal, which amount to \$308.50, of which \$172.85 go to M. Ternisien and \$135.65 to M. Sambuc for the fees paid into Court.

Give official certificate to M. Sambuc that he reserves his rights against the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, who omitted to make the transfer of the shares sold through them.

Also of the declarations made in his pleadings by M. Ternisien.

Also of the declaration made by him that he reserves the right of asking from the Bank of China in the person of its directors reparation for the prejudice which has been caused him by their illegal actions and by the extension given without right to their operations, actions which have placed the said Bank in the hopeless position in which it now finds itself.

Order the repayment of the fine deposited.

So judged, etc.—N. C. Daily News.

THE TERMS OF PEACE BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS"]

Shanghai, 18th April.

The Japanese positively refuse to divulge the terms until the ratification of the treaty, which is to take place within three weeks, and the armistice has been extended until the 8th May in consequence.

The Chinese state the terms variously, mainly an indemnity of two hundred million taels, the cession of Formosa and the Liaotung Peninsula, the opening of several new ports, including Nanking and Peking, and an offensive and defensive alliance.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, 17th April.

Peace has been signed. The *Times* Shanghai correspondent states that the terms are the independence of Korea, the retention by Japan of the conquered places, also of the territory east of the Liao River, the permanent cession of Formosa, the payment of a war indemnity of 100,000,000 yen, and an offensive and defensive alliance between the two countries.

The Japanese Minister in London says that the statements of the *Times* are incorrect, that they omit several of the conditions of peace, and that the remainder are of doubtful accuracy.

LONDON, 18th April.

Reuter's Agency at Tientsin learns that an Imperial Edict has been issued empowering Li Tung-chang to sign a treaty of peace and to accept the conditions contained in a Japanese Ultimatum, which are as follows:—

The payment of a war indemnity of 200,000,000 taels.

The cession of Liaotung peninsula, up to latitude forty.

The cession of the island of Formosa.

The opening up of five new ports, including Tientsin (Peking to commerce).

The limitation of lekin taxes to 2 per cent.

Permission to be granted to the Japanese to open cotton factories and to engage in other industries in China.

The occupation of Port Arthur for a term of years only.

The English Press is reserved in expressing an opinion on the above terms of peace and awaits complete and more accurate details before animadverting upon them.

The French Press is strongly hostile to them and urges united European action to prevent their being carried out.

LONDON, 19th April.

The conditions of peace include the cession of the Pescadores, and the retention of Weihaiwei by the Japanese until the Treaty is executed.

Three weeks are allowed for the ratification of the Treaty.

The Russian Press says that any cession of the mainland of China to Japan will compel the interference of the Foreign Powers.

LONDON, 20th April.

The indemnity is made payable in seven years with 5 per cent. added. No interest charged if paid within three years. Japan extends most favoured nation treatment. China conforms to Japanese customs and to Japanese customs tariff.

LONDON, 22nd April.

The Japanese Customs Tariff has been confirmed.

Reuter's agent at Shanghai states that Japan demands the opening of Chentu, Kaifongfu, Peking, Shaoking, and Suchow.

Germany, France, and Russia have agreed to taken joint action for the protection of their common interests in the East.

A loan for £23,000,000 sterling has been concluded between a German syndicate and Li-hang at Tientsin.

THE NORTH CHINA INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the third ordinary general meeting of shareholders to be held at the offices of the Company, on Tuesday, 23rd April:—

The directors have pleasure in submitting for the information of the shareholders the annexed duly audited statement of the Company's accounts to 31st December last.

1893.—In accordance with the resolution passed at the last ordinary general meeting, the accounts of the year 1893 have been closed by the transfer of Tls. 10,777.08 to liability account, and that amount should prove sufficient provision for any additional claims. The total profits of the year were Tls. 186,806.83, and they have been distributed as detailed in the balance sheet.

1894.—There has been a considerable increase in the income of the Company during the past year, and it is hoped that the following figures and estimates of the ultimate result of the year's working will be considered satisfactory.

The net premium amount to Tls. 813,665.31, and after payment of claims and expenses of management, the balance at credit of the working account on 31st December was Tls. 507,763.80, against which settlements have since been made to the extent of Tls. 129,349.19, and it is proposed to set aside Tls. 163,419.61, to provide for further losses and outstanding liabilities, leaving an estimated surplus of Tls. 215,000.00, which the directors recommend for appropriations as follows:—

Interest at the rate of 10 per cent. on the paid-up capital.

A bonus of 15 per cent. upon contributory premium. An addition of Tls. 50,000 to the reserve fund.

DIRECTORS.

In terms of clause No. 9 of the Articles of Association, the directors all retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

ACCOUNTS.

The accounts have been audited and certified by Mr. White and Mr. Burman. Mr. White again offers his services as auditor, but the directors regret to announce the retirement of Mr. Burman, and it rests with the shareholders to appoint his successor.

By Order of the Court of Directors,
ALEX. ROSS,
Secretary.

Shanghai, 9th April 1895.

BALANCE SHEET—31st DECEMBER, 1894.

Dr.		l/s.
To capital account:—		
3,000 shares at £25=£125,000.0.0 at 2/8 1/2		936,610.93
To reserve fund.....		200,000.00
To investment fluctuation account.....	10,000.00	
Add—Profit on London investments realized	736.15	
		10,736.15
To working account, 1893:—		
Balance on 31st December, 1893		353,789.03
Deduct—		
1st dividend, being 10 per cent. per annum on paid-up capital, declared 25th April, 1894....	86,956.51	
2nd dividend, being 10 per cent. on shareholders' contributions, declared 25th April, 1894	89,850.32	
Carried to investment fluctuation account	10,000.00	
		186,806.83
		166,982.20
Less—		
Amount brought forward from below	156,205.12	
		10,777.08
Amount transferred to liability account.....		10,777.08
To working account, 1894:—		
Amount brought forward from below...		507,763.80
To liability account for 1893 and previous years		11,075.99
To dividends uncollected		322.14
		Tls. 1,646,864.01

Cr.	Tls.
By cash on current and deposit accounts in Shanghai.....	164,074.63
By Chinese Imperial Government loan of 1886 (E. issue).....	41,000.00
By Shanghai municipal loan of { 1888 ... 31,200.00	
{ 1890 ... 15,030.00	
{ 1891 ... 8,668.80	
{ 1894 ... 15,000.00	
By Shanghai Land Investment Company's deb'tres.....	55,000.00
By mortgages on property in Shanghai...	36,500.00
By land and premises—Head office, S'hai	50,000.00
By London freehold premises.....	253,976.00
By London branch—Balance, viz. —	
Cash at Bankers.....	210,584 18 9
Short loans security.....	13,000 0 0
India 3½ per cent. stock and ¼ per cent. deb'tres.....	19,000 16 7
Colonial Gov't. bonds.....	31,103 12 11
City of London 4½ per cent. bonds.....	4,948 18 11
Chinese 6 per cent. bonds.....	404 7 6
Caledonian Railway preferred Ord. stock.....	3,439 4 11
Manchester, Sheffield and Lincoln Railway stock.....	3,453 17 0
Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway Ord. stock.....	4,322 0 0
H. H. Nizam Railway 4 per cent. mortgage deb'tures.....	5,142 10 0
Pennsylvania Railroad 6 per cent. mortgage deb'tures.....	5,683 17 6
Furniture accounts—London and Manchester.....	550 0 0
Premia outstanding, bills receivable, policy stamps and drafts, etc. in course of collection.....	12,425 2 4
Less—Due to sundries.....	2,126 6 1
By Hongkong branch—Balance.....	829,521.48
By Yokohama branch—Balance.....	26,786.60
By Singapore branch—Balance.....	11,469.41
By furniture at head office, Hongkong, Yokohama and Singapore branches.....	18,510.15
By sundry debtors—Premia, etc. outstanding at head office Tls.	3,816.90
and agencies.....	67,576.33
Less—Due to sundries.....	1,567.29
	66,009.01
	Tls. 1,656,564.01

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1893.

Dr.	Tls.
To interest.....	13.72
To balance carried forward.....	156,205.12
	Tls. 156,218.84
Cr.	Tls.
By return and re-insurance premia, 1st Jan. to 31st December, 1894.....	30,271.49
By sundry charges and income tax.....	2,625.98
By losses and claims paid.....	123,321.37
	Tls. 156,218.84

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1894.

Dr.	Tls.
To net premia, 1st January to 31st December, 1894.....	843,065.31
To interest.....	46,498.25
To transfer and certificate fees.....	99.00
To exchange account.....	36,684.79
	Tls. 931,347.35
Cr.	Tls.
By agency commissions, 1st January to 31st December, 1894.....	13,298.43
By agency charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1894.....	10,511.16
By general charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1894.....	715.28
By head office charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1894.....	35,957.04
By London charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1894.....	67,848.85
By Hongkong charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1894.....	13,481.16
By Yokohama charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1894.....	6,456.70
By Singapore charges, 1st January to 31st December, 1894.....	7,801.17
By directors' and auditors' fees.....	6,400.00
By income tax.....	445.03
By losses and claims paid.....	259,229.57
By depreciation furniture account.....	424.11
By balance carried forward.....	507,768.80
	Tls. 931,347.35

Supposing that the island of Chusan is left unabsorbed by Japan, says the *Kokumin*, England will assuredly grab it and form there a centre threatening Japan's proper supremacy between Port Arthur and Talienwan on the north and the Pescadores and Formosa on the south.

THE JELEBU MINING AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of the above Company was held at Singapore on the 6th inst. for the purpose of receiving the Directors' report and accounts for the half-year ended 26th January, 1895. Mr. Joaquim presided.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report having been in your hands during the specified time, we will with your permission take it as read. It cannot be denied that the results of the half-year are bad, because of decreased output and heavy losses on miners' advances. As to the output of tin not being so large as you would have liked, you must admit, gentlemen, that this has been anticipated, and anticipated about two years ago, for if you turn to the reports two years ago, you will find that the directors gave a forecast that our mines were being exhausted, and that the time was coming for us to look out for fresh fields for this company to work upon, and that the directors have been looking out for fresh fields is evidenced by their acquiring a large concession in Lower Burmah from Mr. Menzell. Our manager, Mr. Money, is now at Maliwun making arrangements for the development of that concession, and the directors are hopeful that this venture will turn out profitable to this company and ensure the payment of large dividends after a time. In this connection it may be mentioned that this week we have had a letter from Mr. Money who reports very favourably on a valley in the Bangkok River and you will also be glad to hear that a first shipment of ore in the shape of 50 piculs has been already received from Maliwun. I have no doubt that you will consider the writing off of the sum of \$12,997 for bad and doubtful debts a very heavy item, but that has been forced upon us in part through the exhaustion of old mines or the necessity of closing them, and in part it has been caused by the high price of opium, of which the miners insist on obtaining a supply and without which they cannot or will not work. The directors trust that their recommendation of appropriating the profits of the last half year, viz. the sum of \$4,209, by placing the sum of \$2,723 to the reserve fund, thus bringing the reserve to its previous amount of \$25,000, and of carrying forward the balance, will meet with your approval. The testing of the tin bearing lode which we mentioned to you in previous reports is still being continued. Mr. Roberts, who is testing this lode, speaks very hopefully of it, but the directors will not sink any great amount in machinery until they are thoroughly satisfied that the lode exists, and that it will be in the interests of the shareholders to work it. I think I have dealt with all the points that is necessary and before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be very glad to answer any questions you may wish to ask.

There being no questions, the Chairman formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. KING seconded.

Carried unanimously.

The retiring directors, Messrs. Joaquim and Arnot Reid, were re-elected on the motion of Mr. Witthoefft seconded by Mr. Diez.

Mr A J. Gunn was unanimously re-elected auditor.

This concluded the business of the meeting.—*Straits Times*.

DISMISSAL OF THE VICEROY OF CANTON.

From the *Chung Ngai San Po* we learn that an Imperial edict dated the 14th inst. was received from Peking in Canton by telegraph on the 2nd inst. It was issued in response to a memorial presented by two Censors who said that Li Han-chang, Viceroy of Canton, Yang On-tin and Wang Kam-fook, military officers, Yang Man-tsun, Acting Judge, Luk Wai-ki, Expectant Taotai, and Pan Tai-him, Magistrate of Sin Oi district, were quite incompetent for the posts they held, that they were lazy and wanting in ability, and that they paid no special attention to public duties. The decree of the 14th inst. approves of the memorial, and orders Li Han-chang to retire from office and return to his native village to spend the remainder of his life, for he himself had memorialized the Throne sometime ago asking permission to go back to

his native place. Yang On-tin and Yang Man-tsun are to be degraded and forbidden to hold any office in future. Wang Kam-fook, Luk Wai-ki, and Pan Tai-him, are to be dismissed from office. The decree also orders Ma Pi-in to pay good attention to all the affairs of Canton. The Tartar General has also been ordered to go back to Peking to take another post.

THE FOOTBALL CLUB DINNER.

On Friday evening the members of the Hongkong Football Club held their first dinner, since that flourishing Club was instituted a few years ago, in the spacious drawing room of the Hongkong Hotel, which was tastefully decorated with flowers and bunting for the occasion. The genial and popular President of the Club, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, occupied the chair, while on either side of him were placed the principal guests of the evening, viz. H.E. the Governor, Lieutenant-General Barker, and Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle. After the excellent dinner was served, the company, which numbered about fifty members, listened to some of the most mirthful and witty speeches heard in Hongkong, full of rare humour and happy sentiments befitting the occasion. During the evening the President presented three badges and four caps to the most distinguished and useful men in the Association and Rugby teams during the season of 1894-5, in accordance with the decision of the special committee of five gentlemen appointed for the purpose. The following received badges in the Association team:—Messrs G. D. Campbell, Hongkong Regiment, E. F. Mackay, and A. Sharp. In the Rugby team Messrs. G. H. Potts, D. Landale, A. S. Anton, and C. C. Bowring received caps. The following toasts were proposed:—

Toast..... "The Queen."
Proposed by the President.
Song..... Mr. G. G. Brady.
Toast..... "The Hongkong Football Club."
Proposed by
H.E. Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G.
Responders { Mr. G. H. Potts, Capt. Rugby.
 { Mr. E. F. Mackay, Capt. Assoc.
Song..... Mr. E. W. Maitland.
Toast..... "Our Guests."
Proposed by Mr. F. Browne, Hon. Sec.
Responder:—H.E. Vice-Admiral
the Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle, K.C.B., C.M.G.
Song..... Mr. G. Balloch.
Toast..... "The Chairman."
Proposed by
H.E. Lieut.-Gen. Digby Barker, C.B.
Toast..... "Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer."
Proposed by Mr. E. D. Sanders.
Responders { Mr. F. Browne, Hon. Sec.
 { Mr. J. C. Cameron, Hon. Treas.

HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

The first quarterly competition for the MacEwen Cup and the first stage for the Bruce Cup took place in Happy Valley last week from Friday, 11th, to Monday, 15th, and produced some keen interest, although the returns taken as a whole were not as good as in previous years. The Bruce Cup, presented by Mr. R. H. Bruce, of Amoy, is to be won by the player returning the best net aggregate at this and the July meeting; the MacEwen Cup round only to count. The trophy is a very handsome one and fortunate indeed will be the player who wins it. The MacEwen Cup was won by Lieut. W. M. Thompson, R.E., with a net score of 81, the same player also taking first prize in the Pool with 79 net. Mr. H. L. Dalrymple takes the Sweepstakes with a score of 83, and the Captain of the Club, Commodore Boyes, R.N., wins the Bogeys prize presented by the Club.

On Saturday next the first monthly competition for the Captain's Cup will be held, the conditions being the same as last year, viz., the several winners to play off for final possession at the termination of the twelve months.

Results:—

MACEWEN CUP.		
Lieut. W. M. Thompson, R.E. *	95	14 81
Captain W. V. Eccles, R.B.	99	12 87
Dr. J. A. Lowson	89	scr. 89
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	102	19 92
Mr. J. Hastings.....	107	15 93
Mr. Clement Palmer	105	11 94
Commodore Boyes, R.N.....	108	14 94
Mr. W. A. Duff.....	111	17 94

* Wins the cup.

SWEEPSTAKES.		
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple *	95	10
Dr. J. A. Lowson	89	scr.
Mr. J. Hastings	108	15
Mr. Clement Palmer	105	11
Mr. W. A. Duff	111	17

* Wins the Sweep.

POOL.		
Lient. W. M. Thompson, R.E. *	93	14
Mr. Clement Palmer †	94	11
Captain R. M. Rumsey †	100	8
Captain W. V. Eccles, R.B. †	104	12
Mr. J. Hastings	111	15

* 1st prize. † 2nd prize. ‡ 3rd prize.

BOGEY.		
Commodore Boyes, R.N. (11 strokes) *	4	down.
Lient. W. M. Thompson, R.E. (11 strokes)	5	"
Captain R. M. Rumsey (6 strokes)	8	"
Mr. Clement Palmer (8 strokes)	9	"
Mr. J. Hastings (11 strokes)	9	"
Mr. W. A. Duff (13 strokes)	9	"

N.B. Bogey's round was fixed at 75 down.

* Wins prize.

The final tie in the competition for the Championship of the Club took place in the Happy Valley on the 17th inst. Last year, it will be remembered, the issue was fought out between Captain H. N. Dumbleton, Royal Engineers, and Dr. James Lowson, and a finer match has seldom been seen, resulting in a victory for Captain Dumbleton. Unfortunately this year there was no one to take the latter gentleman's place and Dr. Lowson had matters more or less his own way. In one match only was he really extended, his opponent, Mr. Gershom Stewart, succeeding in leading him by two holes on the first day's play. On the second day Dr. Lowson reduced this lead and finally won by 3 up and 1 to play. The final was contested between Dr. Lowson and Mr. J. W. Mathews, Royal Artillery, 54 holes being played. In the first stage Dr. Lowson ended 4 up and this he increased the following day, finally winning by 7 up and 6 to play. Three players now have the right to challenge Mr. Mathews for second place, viz., Captain Murray, A.D.C., Commodore Boyes, R.N., and Mr. Gershom Stewart.

The complete draw was as follows:—

FIRST ROUND.

Dr. J. A. Lowson beat Captain Murray, A.D.C.
Mr. A. J. Leach beat Mr. H. L. Dalrymple.
Mr. Gershom Stewart beat Mr. C. H. Grace.
Mr. J. W. Mathews, R.A., beat Mr. Clement Palmer.
Captain R. M. Rumsey, R.N., beat Mr. J. Thurburn.
Commodore Boyes, R.N., w.o., Mr. E. A. Ram scratched.

Mr. J. Hastings, w.o., Mr. W. M. Thompson scratched.

SECOND ROUND.

Dr. J. A. Lowson beat Commodore Boyes, R.N.
Mr. J. W. Mathews R.A., w.o., Mr. J. Hastings scratched.
Mr. Gershom Stewart beat Captain R. M. Rumsey, R.N.

Mr. A. J. Leach, a bye.

SEMI-FINAL.

Mr. J. H. Mathews, R.A. beat Mr. A. J. Leach
Dr. J. A. Lowson beat Mr. Gershom Stewart.

FINAL.

Dr. J. A. Lowson beat Mr. J. W. Mathews, R.A.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Sixteen members were present on Saturday to compete for the Martini-Henry cup. The spoons were won by Mr. Webber, R.E., Sergt. Major Morrish, R.B., Sapper Pritchard, R.E., and Mr. Watson. The following were the best scores:—

	200	500	600	H'cap.	Total.
	yards.	yards.	yards.	points.	
Mr. Webber, R.E.	22	23	23	—	68
Sgt. Mjr. Morrish, R.B.	21	21	20	4	66
Sap. Pritchard, R.E.	23	21	17	4	65
Mr. Watson	22	20	19	3	64
C-Sgt. Horsman, R.B.	22	21	15	4	62
Corporal Clarke, R.B.	21	23	17	—	61
Corl. Woolridge, R.B.	24	17	16	4	61

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE BANK OF CHINA AND JAPAN, LIMITED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—A copy of the agreement made on the 21st February last between the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited, and the Bank of China and Japan, Limited, for the reconstruction of the Company, having come into my hands, I crave a small space in your columns to enter my protest as a shareholder against such reconstruction. The Chairman, in his speech at the meeting, reported in the *London and China Express* of the 14th December, 1894, said

the directors had in turning the Company into a Bank, "acted upon their best judgment, and were prepared to take the consequences." I wonder if the Board had properly considered what those consequences might be.

When the Trust and Loan Company was founded in 1889 the shares were subscribed for in the Far East because such an institution was really required. Facilities in the way of advances on shares, real property, &c., &c., were needed, because the local Banks could not meet this demand sufficiently. The Trust and Loan Company was formed, it was believed, for this special purpose, and under that impression shares were freely taken up here. The Company was, it was expressly stated, to work hand in hand with the great local Bank to facilitate the transaction of business, and in no sense to enter into rivalry with it. So long as it remained a Loan Company it had a staunch friend in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, which made large advances on its shares; but upon the Company being turned into a Bank, the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank naturally assumed a less friendly tone, and commenced to call up such advances. The consequence was that there was a panic in the stock of the Trust and Loan Company, the shares commenced to decline, the public lost confidence, and depositors in the United Kingdom took alarm and began to call in their deposits. This brought about something like a collapse. Those shareholders of the Trust and Loan Company who were also shareholders in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at the same time turned against it as a Company inimical to their interests.

I contend, sir, that the directors of the Trust and Loan Company, in turning that institution into a Bank, broke faith with the shareholders in the Far East. They knew when so converting it that had it been proposed at the outset that it should be made a Bank not a single dollar would have been subscribed in Hongkong, China, or Japan. Another local Bank was not required, and shareholders in the great local Banking Corporation would not have dreamed of finding capital to found a rival to that institution. It was of course different in the United Kingdom, where money was cheap and the public were eagerly seeking an investment; probably it mattered little to the home shareholders whether the concern was a Trust and Loan or a Banking Company. But, sir, whatever they may have thought or wished it was the business of the Board of Directors to see that faith was kept with all the shareholders, and not, to suit their whim, suddenly resolve first on conversion into a Bank and, later, on reconstruction, without consulting that large section of the shareholders residing in the Far East. The change was effected by a majority of a section of the home shareholders collected at a meeting, and I unhesitatingly assert that neither in equity nor in justice can the old shareholders in the Trust and Loan Company be made liable for a new venture on wholly different lines. The thing is on the face of it so flagrantly unjust that I cannot doubt there is a remedy. Let the shareholders here call a meeting, communicate with those in the Treaty Ports of China and Japan and in the Straits Settlements, and resolve on some joint course of action to defend their interests. They should resolutely decline to pay calls, defend the case in a court of law, and, if need be, carry it to the Privy Council. Surely there is some way in which shareholders can find protection by law against such high handed measures on the part of the London directors.—Yours faithfully,

A SHAREHOLDER.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1895.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR.—In reference to the letter of "A Shareholder" of the above Bank evolved out of the Trust and Loan Company of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, I quite agree that the shareholders in this part of the world ought not to quietly submit to be shorn for the benefit of home depositors. This proposed reconstruction of the Bank I regard as a ruse to get the shareholders of the Trust and Loan Company to pay up quietly. Money from the East is required to pay off the English depositors, who are friends or constituents of the directors. These depositors are to be paid 25 per cent. of their deposits right off and the remaining 75 per cent. in four years in half-yearly instalments. The money in the hands of the

Bank will therefore be gradually reduced, and I fail to see how a banking business is to be conducted under such circumstances. A Bank must have constituents; where are the constituents of the Bank of China and Japan? I maintain that the Board have alienated the shareholders by prosecuting some, persecuting others over these calls, and I do not believe they can gather a constituency outside those supposed to be pecuniarily interested in it. How, then, is the Bank to make money? The Chairman told the shareholders in London that up to the end of June, 1894, the Bank made about £66,000; but its losses amounted to £60,500, so that little remained for distribution. It may be argued that the fall in silver is the sole cause of the collapse of the Bank of China, but such is not really the fact. Take the case of the Mercantile Bank of India. It suffered severely from the fall in silver, yet its reconstruction was effected smoothly and without friction, because the depositors were not alarmed. They stuck to the Bank, whose credit has not suffered. Old depositors encouraged new ones to come forward to help the popular old Bank. The reverse has been the fate of the Bank of China. The fall in the value of their shares caused by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank throwing upon the market the shares held by them under advance created a panic among the depositors in the United Kingdom.

As the Bank of China has neither the prospect of an influential constituency in the East, nor a large capital wherewith to carry on exchange business, why not close it up before more money is lost? The chances of even moderate success are of the vaguest. Even if the Hongkong Bank shares (largely held by the Bank of China) were to go up further, or the prices of silver and sterling exchange were to rise considerably, the effect would not weigh materially against the large losses already incurred by sacrificing shares in other companies at the ruinous rates prevailing in 1893-94. Considerable losses were also, I am told, made last year in converting their silver into sterling. Why then, choose a lingering death? It will be far less expensive and infinitely better policy to apply the axe to the root of the tree. It would cost far less to appoint the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to realize the share securities held by the Bank of China than to continue the branches of the Bank merely to do nothing but sell shares and perhaps do a little exchange business.

For the above reasons I think the Eastern shareholders should, as your correspondent suggests, unite to resist the reconstruction of this Bank and refuse to pay calls. They ought to have had some voice in the decision, whereas they have been treated as mere nonentities.—I am, dear sir, yours truly,

ANOTHER SHAREHOLDER.

Hongkong, 19th April, 1895.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—I have read with much interest the letters from "Shareholders" in the above Bank, or the old Trust and Loan Co., as it ought still to be called, had the wishes of the subscribers in Eastern Asia been consulted. I am quite at one with your correspondents in saying that before either conversion or reconstruction was thought of the Eastern shareholders should have been consulted. Indeed, I go further, for I hold that unless the shareholders of a company are practically unanimous no scheme of reconstruction should ever be put through. I consider the directors of this Company have sinned grievously against the shareholders out here, and that their action cannot, in equity, be sustained by any Court. If they had called up the remaining £7 10s. or £8 per share, no one would have paid; the shareholders would have gone into bankruptcy. The directors, however, were too wily to adopt such a policy; instead of pronouncing sentence of financial death on the shareholders, they have determined to execute them by the lingering process, and hence make calls of 10s. or 15s. at a time. This will draw out the agony and deepen the discontent.

If there was any reasonable chance of the Trust and Loan Company succeeding as a Bank, even then the hardship would be great on shareholders, but as its prospects of success are so vague, every one believing that its dissolution is inevitable, I think it is absolutely cruel to endeavour to extract fresh funds from the long suffering shareholders. The shareholders ne

not, therefore, scruple to repudiate these calls, and they should be prepared to fight out the case to the end. There is a rumour in Hongkong that calls in London will not be paid as readily as the directors expect, and it was owing to this cause that the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares declined in London. I do not think that the Board of the so-called Bank of China and Japan, Limited, will find it all such plain sailing as they supposed. Shareholders in London as well as in the East have lost so much of late years that they will not readily throw good money after bad.—Your obediently.

A SUFFERER.

Hongkong, 22nd April, 1895.

THE PLAGUE AT MACAO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—Having read the alarming statements in your this morning's issue that an epidemic exists at Macao, I immediately wired to the Secretary General of the Macao Government asking if there was any truth in that statement, and in reply I have just received the inclosed telegram.—Yours faithfully,

A. G. ROMANO.

Consul General for Portugal,

Hongkong, 22nd April, 1895.

(Enclosure.)

TO THE CONSUL FOR PORTUGAL, HONGKONG.

MACAO, 22nd April.

Confirm last telegram. The Board of Health on being consulted declare that there are only isolated cases and that the sanitary state has improved during the last two days. Yesterday there was only one slight case admitted to the Chinese hospital. The hospital matsheds are deserted, there being no patients.

SECRETARY GENERAL.

HONGKONG.

Heavy rains on Tuesday and Wednesday point to the probability that the rainy season is setting in. The downpour did not come too soon, as the water supply had been curtailed, the ground was parched, and the drains were sadly in want of thorough flushing. There can be no doubt, notwithstanding the persistent denials of the Macao Government, that the plague is epidemic at Macao. At a special meeting of the Sanitary Board an authoritative report on the subject was read by Mr. Francis, and resolutions were passed asking the Government to immediately do something to prevent the spread of the disease into Hongkong. On the following day his Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., issued a proclamation prohibiting the immigration of Chinese from Macao and Hainan into the colony. Another important event was the passing, in the Legislative Council on Thursday, of the Medical Officer of Health Bill. The Bill has met with considerable opposition by unofficial members of the Sanitary Board, as the Health Officer will not, although having a seat on the Board, be under the control of the Board, but will be responsible to the Government alone. At a special meeting of the Board on Monday Mr. Francis, Dr. Hartigan, and Mr. R. K. Leigh announced their intention of resigning their seats on the Board, as they could not, they said, act upon it under existing conditions. On the 16th inst. judgment was given for the Hon. E. R. Belilios, who brought an action on a deed of mortgage against Mr. G. S. Coxon. On the 17th inst. the members of the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club gave a performance of Mr. Pinero's farce "The Magistrate," which was repeated on the 20th and 24th. The annual meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce was held on Friday, when the chopping of dollars was strongly condemned. The official inquiry into the grounding of the *Polyphemus* resulted in the master being absolved from blame and having his certificate returned to him. The Acting Chief Justice on Friday suspended the discharge of the bankrupt A. E. Skeels for nine months and the discharge of Smith Alliston for four months. The Hongkong Sky Race Meeting on Saturday was in every respect a success.

The appointment of Dr. J. M. Atkinson to be Acting Colonial Surgeon with effect from the 24th instant during the absence from the colony of Dr. Ph. B. C. Ayres, C.M.G., or until further notice, is gazetted.

The consecration of the Rev. Father Luiz Piazzoli as Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in this colony will take place on the 12th proximo.

At the Police Court on Tuesday, before Commander W. C. H. Hastings, a dozen lodging house keepers were summoned for not registering their houses. Some of the defendants did not appear and warrants were issued against them; in other cases fines varying from \$5 to \$25 were inflicted.

On Tuesday night the petty officers of H.M.S. *Undaunted* held a smoking concert at the R. N. Seamen's Club. The proceedings were in every way successful, and there can be no doubt that there is abundant talent in the Navy, for the songs were rendered in good style, and applause was frequently bestowed upon the artists.

The steamer *Achilles* met with a serious accident on her way from this port to Shanghai a few days ago. She was off Pedro Blanco when her shaft broke, and she had to return for the repairs to be effected. There was no alarm felt on board, and the boat was towed into harbour by one of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's tug-boats. The *Achilles* is now lying at Kowloon dock.

The lawn-tennis match between H.K.C.C. and the Ladies' Recreation Club was on Wednesday watched by a large audience, including H.E. the Governor and a large contingent of ladies. The Band of the Hongkong Regiment played a selection of music during the match. The result was, H.K.C.C. 12 sets, Ladies' Recreation Club 4 sets. Two sets were unfinished for want of light.

The complimentary benefit concert tendered to Mr. C. T. Robinson on the Volunteer Parade Ground on Friday evening proved a great success and the warmth with which Mr. Robinson was received testified to the good feeling entertained towards him and the appreciation of the valuable assistance he has always been so ready to lend in public entertainments. As a comic singer Mr. Robinson takes high rank and on his departure for home he will carry with him the best wishes of a large circle of friends and admirers.

On Saturday, at the Supreme Court, the Hon. A. G. Wise (Acting Attorney-General), applied to the Hon. W. M. Goodman (Acting Chief Justice), for the admission of Mr. Duncan McNeill, barrister-at-law, of the Inner Temple, to the Supreme Court of Hongkong. His Lordship said he saw that Mr. McNeill was called to the bar in England in 1881, and he had been practising in Japan. His Lordship had very much pleasure in approving that Mr. McNeill be admitted and enrolled in the Supreme Court in this colony.

At seven o'clock on Thursday a fire broke out at 31, Bonham Strand, which is a chandler's shop. The Fire Brigade promptly attended, but it was not until after an hour's work that the flames were extinguished. The fire broke out on the first floor, and this and the second floor were burnt out. The ground floor was also damaged by water. It is needless to say that the outbreak had its origin in the upsetting of a kerosine lamp. The premises were insured in the Northern Insurance Company for \$1,800 and in the Hamburg Fire Insurance Company for \$2,000.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospitals:—

Colonial Government	\$300
Mrs. Caldwell	25
Choi Chee Bee, Esq.	25
A Friend	25
From Fairlea	20
Per Mrs. Stevens	20
E. H. Joseph, Esq.	10
Wan Yuk Shan, Esq.	8

By the Douglas steamer *Thales*, which arrived from Formosa and Coast Ports on Tuesday, we learn that while she was at Amoy, on the 20th inst., fire broke out on board the German steamer *Taicheong*, which was loaded with kerosine and general cargo. The outbreak occurred about 2 p.m. and was speedily subdued owing to the valuable assistance rendered by the officers and bluejackets of the U.S.S. *Machias*, together with the help of Captain Bathurst, of the *Thales*, his chief officer, part of the crew, and others. The fire originated in the forward part of the ship and was caused by the overturning of a lamp in the comprador's room. Only the speedy arrival of help prevented the ship from being completely gutted.

There are now 111 exchange and five private lines in connection with the China and Japan Telephone Company in this colony.

The death rate last month was, for the British and foreign community (civil population), 16.6, and for the Chinese community 17.8.

Mr. J. J. Bell-Irving has joined the Board of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in place of the Hon. J. J. Keswick, who has resigned.

The appointment of Surgeon-Major Westcott to be Acting Medical Officer of Health and a member of the Sanitary Board is gazetted.

The Hon. J. J. Keswick left for Shanghai on the 24th inst., where we understand he will spend a few weeks before leaving for England.

The maximum temperature last month was 79.4, on the 27th, and the minimum 47.4, on the 17th, the mean for the month being 63.1. The rainfall amounted to 1.39 inches.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. A. Seth has been appointed Deputy Land Officer, Official Receiver, and Secretary to the Squatters' Board, during the absence of Mr. Bruce Shepherd.

Major-General Black, who relieves Lieut.-General Barker, landed officially on Saturday morning and was received by General Barker and a guard of honour and the usual salutes were fired.

The *Progrès* wants to have the export of mangoes and mangostines from Saigon restricted by law on the ground that their shipment to Hongkong deprives the tables of the Europeans at Saigon of the fruit.

At a regular meeting of the United Chapter, No. 1,341, E.C., held on Friday evening, the officers of the District Grand Lodge installed E. Comp. J. Lowrie as M.E.Z., E. Comp. H. J. Watson as H., and Comp. T. Spafford as J. The M.E.Z. then invested the following officers:—Treasurer, Comp. J. R. Grimble; Scribe E. Comp. F. Howell; Scribe N. Comp. J. R. Craik; P.S. Comp. W. H. E. Smith; First Asst. S. Comp. J. Smith; Second Asst. S. Comp. H. E. A. Hoile; Steward, Comp. H. G. Baker; Dir. of Ceremonies, Comp. A. W. Weston; Janitor, Comp. J. Maxwell.

On Thursday evening a social gathering was held at Union Church, to give the members of the congregation an opportunity of saying goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Gillies, who are leaving for home on a holiday. Mr. Gillies was unfortunately unable to attend, but Mrs. Gillies was present. The Rev. G. J. Williams presided and in the course of the evening referred to the great services Mr. Gillies had rendered to the Church and in the name of the congregation wished Mr. and Mrs. Gillies God speed and an enjoyable visit to the old country. A very pleasant musical programme was rendered, the contributors being Mrs. Hagen, Miss Lammert, Mr. and Mrs. G. Grimble, Mr. W. E. Crow, and Mr. G. P. Lammert.

Dr. C. B. Davies, of Valparaiso, Chili, who is staying in Hongkong, accomplished a smart piece of work Wednesday morning. He is staying at the Windsor Hotel, and yesterday morning he went to the Post Office and bought some stamps. He tendered a \$25 note, and amongst his change were two \$10 notes. These he put into his jacket while he stamped his letters at the table. On going away he found that his notes had gone from his pocket, but he decided not to make a trouble about his loss. About an hour later, however, he went back to the Post Office with more letters, and he then noticed a coolie lounging about in a suspicious manner. The doctor had seen this coolie close to him on the previous occasion, and he resolved to watch him. The Chinaman dodged about the crowd in a manner which clearly showed that his intentions were not honest, and the doctor gave him into custody. The missing dollars were not found upon him, but it is thought that this coolie took them and passed them on to some confederates, who ran away when the arrest was made. The Magistrate, Commander W. C. H. Hastings, sent him to prison for six months with hard labour.

Dr. E. B. Landis, of Chemulpo, has been analysing some of the beverages imported from Japan and offered for sale in the shops in Chemulpo as the products of European vintages, and also some of the foodstuffs from the same sources sold as coming from the markets of Europe and America. He has communicated the results to the *N. C. Daily News*, and some of them are very startling, especially those relating to condensed milk.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 23rd April.—Macao Congous.—Supplies have come to hand rather more freely of late, and during the past fortnight 5,000 boxes have been settled at Tls. 13½ to 21 per picul, leaving about 1,500 boxes unsold. Prices have ruled fairly steady, but latterly the market has been rather easier, and recent purchases shew a slight decline. The good quality noticeable at the beginning of the season has not been well maintained, as the crop has been suffering through scarcity of rain. For Australia, moderate shipments are going forward. About 1,000 boxes of Toosing leaf, of very inferior quality, have come to this market and been sold exclusively to Pouchong dealers. Scented Teas.—Reports from the country state that the crop will be a good one, though not large, but that prices are considerably higher than last year's opening rates.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Canton and Macao	88,830	112,560

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95. lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Canton.....	3,547,932	1,349,192
Amoy	19,447,739	21,321,332
Foochow	8,140,519	5,883,106
Shanghai.....	25,783,527	24,176,826
	56,919,717	52,730,465

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai ...	22,555,223	21,619,462

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Yokohama.....	28,767,467	28,623,687
Kobe	16,379,951	17,213,605
	45,647,418	45,837,292

SILK.

CANTON, 23rd April.—Tsatiees and Re-reels.—No stock. Contracts could be now placed ahead in new season's Re-reels, delivery June to September, at \$525/\$10/495 for Nos. 1, 2, 3, Grantreeled, but it is scarcely probable that anything has been done to date. Filatures.—Have remained exceedingly quiet, and holders have slowly given way before the firmness of Exchange and the dullness of the home markets. Many reelers are arriving at the end of their cocoons and the total stock of silk unsold is estimated at about 1,500 bales. The fortnight's settlements are almost nil. We only hear of 10 bales Yut Cheong Wo 10/12 at \$610, 10 bales Kwong King Loong 10/12 at \$605, 10 bales Wai Lun King 10/12 at \$600, 10 bales each Yee Wo Lun 12/14 and 14/16 at \$560/545, and 5 bales Sun King Lun 11/13 at \$560. \$630 are offered for Miu King Lun 13/15. In Short-reels for America nothing is reported. Waste.—Is quiet at weakish prices. Stocks.—Tsatiee nil bales. Cumchuck nil bales. Filature 1,500 bales, to close of season. We append quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons. Exchange, 6 months' sight, 2/2 and Fcs. 2.75 per Dollar.

Filature 1st class 11/13 \$660

1st ..	13/15 \$650
2nd ..	10/12 \$610 to \$640
2nd ..	13/15 \$590 to \$620
3rd ..	10/12 \$590 to \$600
3rd ..	13/15 \$550 to \$560

Punjun Books No. 3 & 4	\$ 92	1/9
Punjun Waste	\$ 84	1/7½
Steam Waste Extra ...	\$ 93	1/9½
No. 1	\$ 74	1/5½
Gum Waste No. 1.....	\$ 80	1/6½
No. 2	\$ 67	1/3½
Re-reel Waste	\$ 98	1/10½
Pierced Cocoons.....	\$ 69	1/2

Settlements for the fortnight:

	1894-95.	1893-94.
For Europe ...	50 bales.	200 bales.
For America ..	nil	50
For Bombay...	nil	nil

SHANGHAI, 18th April.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular).—London telegrams dated 26th current report the market "quiet" and quote Gold Killing 7/7½ and Blue Elephant 9/6. Raw

Silk.—The stagnation of business in White Silks continues, and the only purchases during the week consist of about 100 bales of Yellow Silks. The rise in silver and native holders being unwilling to accept lower prices is accountable for this position. Tsatiees.—There are no buyers in the market nor have we heard of any offers being made. Taysaams.—No transactions. Yellow Silks.—Are in fair demand for India. Prices are unchanged with small stocks. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the 10th to the 17th April, are 458 bales of White, 93 bales of Yellow, and 109 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—No fresh business to report, the shipments going forward being all old contracts. Wild Silk.—No business reported. Waste Silk.—Remains quiet, but Tussah Waste has attracted more attention, and several parcels have changed hands at Tls. 26 for No. 1. Pongees.—We hear of no transactions.

Purchases include:—Yellow Silk.—S'ung Skeins Blue Goats at Tls. 265, Mienchow at Tls. 240 to Tls. 242½, Meeyang at Tls. 225, Fooyung at Tls. 205, Wongchow at Tls. 180.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1894-95 bales.	1893-94 bales.
Canton	14,914	18,020
Shanghai	48,179	53,787
Yokohama	20,022	20,465
Total to date	83,115	94,272

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1894-95 bales.	1893-94 bales.
Canton.....	8,453	4,103
Shanghai.....	8,706	3,990
Yokohama	24,209	15,558
	41,368	23,651

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 24th April.—Stocks have accumulated, and a heavy fall in prices has taken place. Quotations for Formosa are \$42.00 to \$42.50. During the past week sales have been 250 piculs. Quotations for Japanese camphor nil.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 24th April.—A slight improvement has to be noted. With the conclusion of peace the Chinese anticipate a large demand from the Northern ports. Following are the quotations:—Shekloong, No. 1, White...\$7.32 to 7.35 per picul. do. " 2, White... 6.85 to 6.87 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.80 to 4.82 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.57 to 4.60 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.26 to 7.29 " do. " 2, White... 6.72 to 6.75 " do. " 1, Brown... 4.47 to 4.50 " Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.30 to 4.32 " Foochow Sugar Candy.....10.67 to 10.70 " Shekloong " " 9.25 to 9.28 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The German steamer *Bayern*, Hongkong to Hamburg, 6th April, took:—1 packages Private Effects, 2 cases Cigars, 50 packages Fire Crackers, 1 case Samples, and 60 bales Bristles; for Antwerp:—36 bales Leaf Tobacco, 1 case Cigars, 32 rolls Matting, 11 cases Merchandise, 115 bales Feathers, 20 cases Chinaware, 120 bales Bamboo Scraps, 28 cases Tea Sticks, 25 cases Bristles, 3 packages Sundries; for Copenhagen:—2 cases Cigars; for Singapore:—5 cases Cigars; for Amsterdam:—129 boxes Chinaware and Curios, 71 cases Tea Sticks, and 5 cases Black Bamboo; for Genoa:—108 bales Waste Silk, 1 case Silk, 14 rolls Mats, 1 case Furniture, and 2 cases Private Effects; for Milan:—10 bales Raw Silk; for Smyrna:—10 cases Aniseed Oil; for Lisbon:—5 cases Curios; for Alexandria:—20 cases Glass Bangles; for Oporto:—52 packages Fire Crackers and 1 case Sample of Silk; for Bremen:—138 rolls Matting, 10 bales Feathers, and 18 cases Merchandise; for London:—1 box Treasure (\$46,000).

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 24th April.—Bengal.—There has been an advance in rates owing to a demand from Shanghai. New Patna closes at \$735, Old at \$750. New Benares at \$725, and Old at \$720.

Malwa.—No change has taken place in rates. Quotations are as under:—New \$690 with allow'ce of ¼ to 1½ cts. Old (2 to 4 yrs.) \$720 " 0 to 1 " (5 to 8 yrs.) \$740 " ¼ to 1½ "

Persian.—The market continues inactive. Rates are unaltered, Oily drug being quoted at \$710 to \$750, and Paper-wrapped at \$750 to \$795 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

Old Patna	650 chests.
New Patna.....	1,374 "
Old Benares	810 "
New Benares.....	325 "
Malwa	846 "
Persian	1,037 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
April 17	737½	740	725	720	690	720/740
April 18	740	750	727½	730	690	720/740
April 19	740	750	730	732½	690	720/740
April 20	740	750	730	733½	690	720/740
April 21	740	750	730	732½	690	720/740
April 22	737½	750	727½	730	690	720/740
April 23	737½	750	727½	730	690	720/740
April 24	735	750	725	720	690	720/740

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 24th April.—The market remains without improvement, and quotations are almost nominal. Stocks; 1,321 bales Bengal; 162 bales Dacca; 277 bales Rangoon, and about 300 bales of Chinese Cotton.

Bombay\$12.00 to 14.00 p. picl.
Kurrachee 12.00 to 14.00 "
Bengal, Rangoon, and } 12.00 to 15.00 "
Dacca, }
Shanghai and Japanese.. 16.00 to 18.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo.. 16.00 to 18.00 "
Madras..... 14.00 to 16.00 "
Sales: 201 bales Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca, 150 bales Shanghai and Japanese, Tungchow and Ningpo.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 24th April.—The demand from Canton has continued and prices have again advanced. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul
Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.18 to 2.20
" Round, good quality	2.35 to 2.37
" Long	2.42 to 2.45
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	2.23 to 2.26
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	2.52 to 2.55
Siam White	3.03 to 3.06
" Fine Cargo	3.25 to 3.28

COALS.

HONGKONG, 24th April.—Very small business doing; quotations nominal. Quotations are:—Cardiff\$11.00 to 12.00 ex ship, buyers.
Australian ... 8.00 to — ex ship, nominal.
Miike Lump... 6.75 to 7.25 ex ship, nominal.
Miike Small... 5.75 to 6.25 ex ship, nominal.
Moji Lump ... 5.50 to 6.50 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 24th April.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARNS AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—545 bales No. 10 at \$65 to \$72, 615 bales No. 12 at \$69.50 to \$82, 320 bales No. 16 at \$73 to \$79.50, 1,020 bales No. 20 at \$73.50 to \$85. Grey Shirtings.—750 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$3.55, 3,900 pieces 8½ Blue Joss at \$2.70, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Palace chop at \$3.05. White Shirtings.—150 pieces M. H. at \$4.90. T-Cloths.—1,975 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Blue Dragon B. Bat, at \$2.05, 500 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Red Stag at \$2.15, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Gold Dragon at \$2.07½. Fancy Goods.—120 pieces velvets, 22 inches, Fail chop at \$0.20. Camlets.—50 pieces assorted 9 Old Men at \$17.30.
METALS.—Iron.—500 kegs Wire Nails at \$4.55. Lead.—6,720 piculs Australian at \$6. Yellow Metals.—50 cases Muntze 20/28 oz. at \$23.50. Tin.—100 bales Poong Choi at \$36.70. Quicksilver.—150 flasks at \$115.

SHANGHAI, 17th April.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's report.)—The interval has been a good deal encroached upon by the Easter holidays, but since the news of the conclusion of peace was confirmed the enquiry has been more pronounced, though, as far as Manchester goods are concerned, the dealers appear to be merely trying to find out what prices they can resell their own holdings at. There is not the slightest inclination to speculate, and the only transactions that have taken place are to fill positive orders, for which purpose a very few bales will generally suffice. American goods are differently situated, and in these there is certainly some disposition to lay in supplies of the better makes, which are scarce, and some fairly large orders have gone through. The spring trade, such as it has been, is virtually over now, and unusually heavy quantities of English goods will have to be carried over the summer months, which will naturally curtail orders for the autumn requirements. These should be going forward

now, if at all, but the position of the Manchester market at present is very unpromising. Business at all the trade centres has been so disorganised that some months must elapse, even if the war is ended, before it can go on in the old routine again. The Tientsin men are acting very cautiously and are not sending anything they are not quite certain of an outlet for. At Newchwang trade is at a standstill. The Japanese are in possession, but have not yet made the necessary arrangements for controlling the trade of the port, consequently an English steamer that called there a few days ago found everything toysyturvy and scarcely any produce ready for shipment.

Metals and Miscellaneous.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's circular.)—19th April.—Lead.—The 750 tons alluded to in my last report arrived from Australia, not Hongkong. There is a rumour of a large sale at Tls. 5, but it lacks confirmation. L.B. has been selling in small lots at Tls. 4.47½, and the market generally is dull: about 300 tons have gone up river this month. Pig Iron.—There is a small demand for ordinary brands at quotations. Nailrod Iron.—Belgian and Sohiers are quoted Tls. 2.27½ to Tls. 2.30, and re-sales by natives are of small proportions; re-shipments since the first are about 5,000 piculs. Bar and Hoop Iron are without quotable change; re-shipments of the former 2,600 piculs, of the latter 600 piculs. Iron Wire has met with more attention; re-shipments are 2,140 piculs (of old 900 piculs) and sales:—100 casks, No. 16/25 at Tls. 5.32½; 100 casks, No. 12/21 at Tls. 4.67½; 100 casks, No. 11/25 at Tls. 4.90. Old Iron.—200 tons Glasgow Horse-shoes, "spot," are reported done at Tls. 1.65 and 100 tons London, "to arrive," at 7/1 c.i.f. etc. Re-exports are about 8,600 piculs (including 3,600 piculs Horse-shoes) and against stocks estimated to be outside of 15,000 tons. Steel.—There are no sales of Bamboo on record, but I have heard of a low contract for Plate Cuttings. Re-shipments of the latter since the 1st are 2,235 piculs and of Bamboo and Bars 960 piculs. Copper and Yellow Metal Sheathings.—About 400 piculs of the latter have been re-shipped to the ports and late contracts will fully supply requirements for the near future.

WEDNESDAY, 24th April. EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	2 1½
Bank Bills, on demand	2 1½
Bank Bills, at 30 day's sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2 2/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2 2/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2 2/2
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.70
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.76
ON GERMANY.	
On Demand	2.18
ON NEW YORK.	
Banks Bills, on demand	5 3/4
Credits, 60 day's sight	5 3/4
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	192½
Bank, on demand	192½
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	192½
Bank, on demand	192½
ON SHANGHAI.	
Banks, at sight	7 1/2
Private, 30 day's sight	7 2/2
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	¾ % pm.
ON MANILA.	
On demand	7 % pm., nom.
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	½ % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	9.14
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	47.75

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 24th April.—During the week under review the market has continued to remain inactive and the volume of business transacted has been but small, the chief feature being a further rise in both Hongkong and Shanghai and National Banks; also in Hongkong Fire.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, in sympathy with higher quotations from London, quickly rose from 180 to 191 per cent. prem., at which rate some shares changed hands, and only one or two transactions at intermediate rates. The market closed with sales at 190 per cent. prem. Nationals continue to be enquired for and close with buyers at \$27.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Sales are reported in Traders at \$66, \$66½, and \$67, closing with further sellers at the latter rate. Unions and

Cantons have both been done at \$157½ per share, while Yangtszes are on offer at \$97.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have materially improved their position since date of our last, having jumped from \$185 to \$200 with sales, few shares, however, changing hands at intermediate rates. Chinas found buyers at \$82, and close with further enquiries at half a point higher.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao remain steady with sales at \$31½. A few Douglas's changed hands at \$48, while Indo-Chinas have dropped to \$45 without finding buyers.

REFINERIES.—Continue to remain neglected at quotations.

MINING.—Punjoms have been sold at \$6. \$6½, and \$6½; Balmorals at \$5.75; and Raubs at \$4.25, all in small lots.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have somewhat recovered and are in demand at 96 per cent. premium; Watsons found investing buyers at \$10; a small lot of Ices changed hands at \$76; and Bell's Asbestos shares were taken up at \$9½.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		[& sellers
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	190 p. ct. pm., sales
China, Japan, &c.	\$250	nom.
Do., Founders.....	\$1	nom.
Nat. Bank of Ch.		
B. Shares.....	\$8	\$27, buyers
Foun. Shares.	\$1	n. m.
Bell's Asbestos E.A.	\$1	nom.
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	\$9½, sales
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$1	4½, sellers
China Borneo	\$55	2 ex div., buyers
China Sugar	\$100	nom.
Chinese Loan '86 E., Tls. 250		\$126, sellers
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	11 p. ct. pm.
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$1
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$6.25, buyers
Green Island Cement	\$50	\$15
H. Brick & Cement.	\$12.50	\$84
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$5½, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas.	\$10	\$36
Hongkong Electric...	\$8	\$125, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways.	\$100	\$4.75, sellers
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	6½, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$76, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$38, sellers
H. & W. Dock.....	\$125	\$121
Hotels—		96 p. ct. pm., buyers
Hongkong Hotel...	\$50	9
Shameen	\$20	4
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$157½, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$82½, buyer
China Traders' ...	\$45	\$66½, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire ...	\$50	\$200, sales & seller
North-China	\$25	Tls. 215, sellers
Straits Marine.....	\$20	\$19½, sales & seller
Union	\$5	\$157½, sales & buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$97, sellers
Land & Building—		
H. Land Investm't	\$50	\$58
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$10, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	9½
West Point Buildg.	\$40	\$18
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$45, sellers
Mining—		
New Balmoral.....	\$3	\$5.75, sales & buyers
Charbonnages.....	\$131.58	\$75, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$4, sell rs
Punjum	\$3½	\$6½, sales
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$1.80
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$4.25, sales & buyer
Steamship Coys.—		
China & Manila ...	\$50	\$58, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$49, buyers
H., Canton, & M.	\$20	\$31½, sales
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$45, sellers
W'chai Wareh'se Co.	\$37½	\$37½
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$10, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 19th April.—(From Messrs. P. J. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Business was done during the week at 178, 180, and 185 per cent premium. The market weakened yesterday and a transaction took place at 182½, but shares were placed at 185 per cent premium at the close. The London rate is £44. In Hongkong there are buyers at 189 per cent premium. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug boat shares have been placed at Tls. 127½, Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat shares were sold at \$31 and to Hongkong at \$32. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have receded to Tls. 140, at which a transaction is reported. Marine Insurance.—Unions were placed,

from Hongkong, at \$157½. Straits shares have been sold at \$19½. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs have been sold at \$187½ cash, and Chinas at \$81 for delivery on 31st May. Mining.—Jebeu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—Shares have been sold at \$3.75 and \$3.50. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares are wanted. There are buyers of Shanghai Land Investment shares at Tls. 34. Shanghai-Lankat Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 110, and Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares at Tls. 50. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment Company's 5½ per cent. Debentures were sold cum accrued interest at Tls. 93, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Debentures at Tls. 102, the buyer paying in addition for the accrued interest.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Bombay (str.), Ajax (str.), Volute (str.), Canton (str.).
For BREMEN.—Preussen (str.).
For HAVRE and HAMBURG.—Priok (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—Oxus (str.), Clam (str.).
For VICTORIA, B.C.—Victoria (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of India (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—China (str.), Queen Margaret, Belgic (str.).
For NEW YORK.—Sachem (str.), Strathcarron (str.), Challenger, Fort Stuart.
For AUSTRALIA.—Chingtu (str.).

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 24th April.—During the past fortnight there has not been a very lively demand for tonnage, although subjoined list of settlements shows a slight increase on last report.

From Saigon to Hongkong the demand has fallen off, and rates have consequently declined. Medium-sized steamers command only 17 cents, while large carriers are not wanted at all. To Amoy a small steamer might be placed at 27 cents per picul and to Sourabaya 28 cents is offered.

From Bangkok to Hongkong outside steamers are not wanted, and the rate may be quoted as nominally 20 cents outside and 25 cents inside the bar.

From Chinkiang to Whampoa there has been a lively demand and a number of large carriers have found employment in this direction at 20 candareens per picul, the regular coasters being able to secure 22 candareens. To Swatow, 21 has been accepted.

Coal freights from Japan are very dull, \$2 being offered to Hongkong and \$2.50 to Singapore.

In sail freights, several vessels have been fixed, to arrive, to load hence for New York at about 19s. per ton of 40 cubic feet, and further tonnage is wanted. There are no vessels disengaged in port.

The following are the settlements:—

Siam—German ship, 1,691 tons, Hongkong to New York.
Belmont—British ship, 1,415 tons, Shanghai and Hongkong to New York.
Glenesslin—British ship, 1,743 tons, Hongkong to San Francisco.
Velocity—British barque, 491 tons, Hongkong to Honolulu and back, \$6,000 in full.
Tamarind—Norwegian steamer, 885 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, \$6,600 in full.
China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19½ cents per picul.
Ethiopia—British steamer, 1,005 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.
Aslow—British steamer, 1,827 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, \$10,600 in full.
Beatrice—British steamer, 1,442 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.
Propontis—British steamer, 1,390 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.
Glenearn—British steamer, 1,425 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17½ cents per picul.
Rio—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19½ cents per picul.
Eve—British steamer, 1,365 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19½ cents per picul.
Tailee—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.
Siam—British steamer, 992 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.
Strathavon—British steamer, 1,740 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16½ cents per picul.
Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17½ cents per picul.
Rubens—British steamer, 1,291 tons, Chinkiang to Whampoa, 20 candareens per picul.
Benmohr—British steamer, 1,335 tons, Chinkiang to Whampoa, 20 candareens per picul.
Bonnington—British steamer, 1,332 tons, Chinkiang to Whampoa (2 trips), 20 candareens per picul.
Queen Adelaide—British steamer, 1,835 tons, Chinkiang to Whampoa (2 trips), 20 candareens per picul.
Esdale—British steamer, 1,926 tons, Chinkiang to Whampoa, 20 candareens per picul.
Parthian—British steamer, 1,050 tons, Chinkiang to Swatow (2 trips), 21/20 candareens per picul.
Moldava—British steamer, 1,477 tons, Takao to Yokohama, 25 cents per picul.
Glenogle—British steamer, 2,398 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.
Smit—Dutch steamer, 822 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.75 per ton.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

April—

ARRIVALS.

17, S. Rickmers, German str., from Swatow.
 17, Natal, French str., from Marseilles.
 17, Kwongmo, British str., from Amoy.
 17, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
 17, Jens Mimich, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
 17, Niobe, German str., from Kobe.
 17, Bonnington, British str., from Java.
 17, Fidelio, German str., from Saigon.
 17, Glenearn, British str., from Probolinggo.
 17, Kong Beng, British str., from Bangkok.
 17, Kwanglee, British str., from Canton.
 17, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
 18, Benmohr, British str., from Saigon.
 18, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
 18, Energia, British str., from Singapore.
 18, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
 18, Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.
 18, Wuotan, German str., from Saigon.
 18, Marie Jensen, German str., from Whampoa.
 18, Dardanus, British str., from Amoy.
 18, Kwongsang, British str., from Tientsin.
 18, Eleanor, Amr. str., from Canton.
 19, Canton, British str., from London.
 19, Victoria, British str., from Tacoma.
 19, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Kaiser-i-Hind, British str., from Bombay.
 19, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
 20, Mathilde, German str., from Saigon.
 20, Hailong, British str., from Tamsui.
 20, Activ, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
 20, Fushun, British str., from Canton.
 20, Rosary, British str., from Whampoa.
 20, Leander, British cruiser, from Takow.
 20, Spartan, British cruiser, from a cruise.
 21, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
 21, Jordan, British str., from Chinkiang.
 21, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
 21, Pallas, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 21, Parthian, British str., from Saigon.
 21, Phra Chom Klao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
 22, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
 22, Lifoo, German str., from Shanghai.
 22, Glengarry, British str., from Shanghai.
 22, China, British str., from San Francisco.
 22, Abana, British str., from Chinkiang.
 22, Glengyle, British str., from London.
 22, Empr. of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 22, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
 22, Nanyang, German str., from Chinkiang.
 22, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 22, Verona, British str., from Japan.
 23, Ganges, British str., from Shanghai.
 23, Brunhilde, German str., from Chinkiang.
 23, Bogstad, Norw. str., from Saigon.
 23, Crane, British str., from Whampoa.
 23, Guthrie, British str., from Sydney.
 23, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
 23, Tellus, Norw. str., from Saigon.
 23, Thales, British str., from Takow.
 23, Foyle, British str., from Saigon.
 23, Ghazee, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 24, Benlawers, British str., from Saigon.
 24, Paoting, British str., from Bangkok.
 24, Dryfesdale, British str., from Saigon.
 24, Priam, British str., from Liverpool.
 24, Bentala, British str., from Kutchinotzu.

DEPARTURES.

17, Asloun, British str., for Saigon.
 17, Nanyang, British str., for Amoy.
 17, Tamarind, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 17, Caledonien, French str., for Europe.
 17, Chiyuen, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Changsha, British str., for Australia.
 17, Fokien, British str., for Canton.
 17, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
 17, Melpomene, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 17, Natal, French str., for Shanghai.
 17, Petropolis, German str., for Amoy.
 17, Queen Adelaide, Brit. str., for Chinkiang.
 17, Irene, German flag-ship, for Chefoo.
 17, G. Cly, Russian g-bt., for Yokohama.
 17, Sweaborg, Rus. torpedo-bt., for Yokohama.
 18, Swatow, British str., for Hoihow.
 18, Strathavon, British str., for Saigon.
 18, Hunan, British str., for Chefoo.
 18, Michael Jensen, German str., for Haiphong.
 18, City of Peking, Amr. str., for S. Francisco.
 18, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 18, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Swatow.
 19, Piccola, German str., for Saigon.
 19, Taioheong, German str., for Amoy.
 19, Kwongmo, British str., for Amoy.
 19, Spartan, British cruiser, for a cruise,

19, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Kweiyang, British str., for Tientsin.
 19, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 19, Manche, French str., for Saigon.
 19, Niobe, German str., for Hamburg.
 19, Wuotan, German str., for Amoy.
 19, Geo. R. Skolfield, Amr. ship, for Kobe.
 20, Dardanus, British str., for London.
 20, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 20, Fidelio, German str., for Saigon.
 20, Phra Nang, British str., for Hoihow.
 21, Activ, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 21, Canton, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Cassius, German str., for Hoihow.
 21, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
 21, Kaiser-i-Hind, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 21, Oanfa, British str., for Moji.
 21, Cristoforo Colombo, Ital. cr., for a cruise.
 22, Severn, British cr., for Singapore.
 22, Bonnington, British str., for Chinkiang.
 22, Eleanor, Amr. str., for Amoy.
 22, Energia, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Jens Mimich, Nor. str., for Bangkok.
 22, Jordan, British str., for Whampoa.
 22, Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
 22, Lifoo, German str., for Canton.
 22, Marie Jensen, German str., for Swatow.
 22, Quiros, Spanish g-bt., for Manila.
 22, Manila, Spanish transport, for Manila.
 22, Kong Beng, British str., for Bangkok.
 23, Nanyang, German str., for Canton.
 23, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 23, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Mohican, American bark, for Callao.
 23, Mathilde, German str., for Saigon.
 23, Abana, British str., for Whampoa.
 23, Brunhilde, German str., for Canton.
 23, Fushun, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Kutsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 24, Kutsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 24, Guthrie, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Benmohr, British str., for Chinkiang.
 24, Crane, British str., for Singapore.
 24, Brunhilde, German str., for Canton.
 24, Glenearn, British str., for Swatow.
 24, Glengarry, British str., for Singapore.
 24, Glengyle, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
 24, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Natal*, str., for Hongkong from Marseilles—Messrs. J. Ardill, H. Slade, and Duverdier from Colombo.—Mr. Sinclair. From Singapore.—Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Lee, Messrs. P. Braga, J. H. Symington, M. A. Toomasoff, B. J. Medina, and J. C. Lambie. From Saigon.—Messrs. Ehlers, Worth, and Kang Poe. For Shanghai from Marseilles.—Mr. and Mrs. Grevedon and baby, Mrs. Rey and baby, Mr. and Mrs. Cartwright, Consul Frère, Mrs. and Miss Frère, Mrs. Gilbert and daughter, Miss Louise Rey, Messrs. Hogue, Maltby, Gordon, Broecker, and Mols Brun. From Singapore.—Mr. S. J. Pooritain. For Nagasaki from Singapore.—Mr. and Mrs. Shimamoto, Messrs. Kook, Lemokowa, Morogawa, and Mrs. Okhitan and infant. For Kobe from Marseilles.—Mr. and Mrs. White and baby, Mr. and Mrs. Coffinet. From Batavia.—Mr. and Mrs. Gotoch. From Singapore.—Mr. and Mrs. Momoto, Messrs. E. A. Apcar, Niscoka, Yamakuchi, Okuro, Togawa, Inwa, Mariano, Fevier Braga, and J. C. Lemercier. For Yokohama from Marseilles.—Mr. and Mrs. Vivanti, Messrs. Ch. Manuel and Monikawa. From Colombo.—Prince Santa Cruz, Mr. G. J. Lyon and 2 Misses Lyon, Miss Buttler. From Singapore.—Mrs. Okeyo, Mrs. Hamo, Messrs. S. R. Robinson, Oyoye, Hyeyase, Gallani Edgardo, and Kamorudin. From Saigon.—Mr. Ropp.

Per *Victoria*, str., from Tacoma.—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sale Hill, Master Robert Sale Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. S. Palmer.
 Per *Kaiser-i-Hind*, str., for Hongkong from London.—Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. Black, Capt. Loveband, Miss Day, Messrs. May and Adams. From Brindisi.—Mr. and Mrs. Osborne, Miss Galfre, Mr. Droege. From K. George's Sound.—Mr. Ah Hing. From Bombay.—Messrs. Vania, Sethna, and Petigura. From Colombo.—Mr. and Mrs. Fairhurst. From Singapore.—Messrs. Playfair and Fan Tok-foo. For Shanghai from London.—Mr. and Mrs. Aires, Mr. and Mrs. Bois and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. W. King, Messrs. W.

King and Creighton. From Brindisi.—Messrs. Hawes and Burgoyne. For Nagasaki from London.—Miss Stewart and 2 children. For Kobe from Bombay.—Mrs. Wilson and 3 children. From Colombo.—Mr. Lyon. For Yokohama from London.—Messrs. Young, Francis, Murray, Simon, Lee, Samuels, and Haynes. From Brindisi.—Mr. and Mrs. Crossfield, Mr. Rivington. From Ismailia.—Mr. and Mrs. Davies. From Port Said.—Mr. Pollock. From Bombay.—Messrs. Phelps, Kerrison, Church, King, and Major Farmer.

Per *Glengyle*, str., from London, &c., for Shanghai.—Miss Mitchell.

Per *Glengarry*, str., from Shanghai.—Messrs. Duncan and Ruxon, for London.

Per *China*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. F. Playfair, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. McCracken, Rev. and Mrs. S. B. Partridge, Messrs. Hugh Sutherland and J. W. Brown, and 185 Chinese.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., from Manila.—Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Wilkinson, Miss Isabella Tuason.

Per *Empress of India*, str., from Vancouver.—Mr. E. J. Moss. From Kobe.—Mr. H. Grimbly. From Shanghai.—Major Faithfull and Mrs. Powell.

Per *Verona*, str., for Hongkong from Yokohama.—Mr. A. Henn. From Kobe.—Mr. Dogherty and Mrs. Nakagawa. For Singapore from Nagasaki.—Mrs. A. Hardy. For Colombo from Kobe.—Colonel R. Alexander. For London.—Misses Hogg (2). For Marseilles from Yokohama.—Lord Dormer.

Per *Ganges*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong.—Mr. Lai Chee Sang, wife and 4 sons. For Singapore.—Messrs. Tan Yeak Kim, Yeo Swee Cheok, Tan Cheng Man, and Haffenden. For Bombay.—Mr. F. W. Newton. For Brindisi.—Mr. J. Shearer. For London.—Misses Warr and Culverwell.

Per *Thales*, str., from Takow, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Smyth, Messrs. Lee Nguck-foo and Wong Gean Sing.

Per *Guthrie*, str., from Sydney.—Messrs. F. W. Fraser, A. Hawley, and H. Rose. From Port Darwin.—Mr. J. Whitney.

DEPARTED.

Per *Caledonien*, str., from Hongkong for Saigon.—Mr. Yen On Chan. For Singapore.—Mr. E. A. Irving. For Colombo.—Mr. C. E. Holworthy. For Marseilles.—Mrs. Bennett, Messrs. C. C. Bowering, W. F. Tyler, Barr, Brotherton. For Saigon from Shanghai.—Messrs. Mace, E. Abgrall, Le Gall, Brinwal, Philippe, Garo, Le Saux, Martin, and Ozamo. From Nagasaki.—Messrs. Lennon, Lamotte, Rozeau, Guillet, and Maritain. For Singapore from Yokohama.—Messrs. Kosaro Konishi and J. H. D. Jones. For Port Said from Nagasaki.—Mr. and Mrs. Somoff and 2 children. For Alexandria from Shanghai.—Mr. Bereyowski. For Batavia.—Mrs. Brouwer. For Marseilles.—Mr. and Mrs. Vouillemont and infant, Capt. Eyland, Messrs. Hoerter, J. H. Harris, and J. Cavalin. For Marseilles from Yokohama.—Mrs. Nicolas, Messrs. Brandenburg and Mashiyouna.

Per *Lightning*, str., for Singapore, &c.—Miss Head, Mrs. Lum and daughter, Mrs. Tam Ping, Mrs. Leung Mnk, Mrs. Hui Chan Hi and daughter, Mrs. Chan, daughter and 4 children, Messrs. Subadar Firoz Khan, Subadar Fisel Khan, and Subadar Fikir Muhammad.

Per *City of Peking*, str., for Kobe.—Mr. Yip Chong. For Yokohama.—Mr. and Mrs. Jerome, Mrs. T. M. Boyd and 2 children, Miss Duncan, Messrs. L. Sanderson, C. L. Forrest, J. W. Richardson. For San Francisco.—Mr. R. S. Gunn. For Glasgow.—Mr. C. H. Baumbach. For London.—Mr. W. Mathison.

Per *Natal*, str., from Hongkong for Shanghai.—Mrs. Hall and 2 children, Messrs. P. Rey and Gardwell. For Kobe.—Messrs. J. A. Ely, W. E. Faulkner, and R. E. Faulkner. For Yokohama.—Miss Stewart.

Per *Choysang*, str., for Shanghai.—Mr. A. Dieking.

Per *Haitan*, str., for Swatow.—Mr. and Mrs. Chan Ko Shun and 2 sons. For Foochow.—Messrs. Tomasoff and Van der Vilde.

Per *Kaiser-i-Hind*, str., from Hongkong for Shanghai.—Miss Angeliveira and Capt. Gould Adams. For Yokohama.—Miss Stewart, Mr. Murray Stewart, Mr. Harold King. For Kobe.—Surg.-Capt. Beveridge and Mr. B. S. Sinclair. For Shanghai from London.—Mr. and Mrs. Bois and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Aires, Mr. and Mrs. King, Messrs. W. King and Creighton. From Brindisi.—Messrs. Hawes and Burgoyne.